



BOSTON

150

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF
EDWARD EVERETT.

THE
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF
EDWARD EVERETT,

CELEBRATED BY THE
DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

APRIL 11th, 1894.

SECOND EDITION.



BOSTON :
MUNICIPAL PRINTING OFFICE.
1897.

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CITY OF BOSTON.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Sept. 23, 1897.

ORDERED, That a new edition of the Everett Centennial Memorial, published as a City Document by order, approved April 28, 1894, be printed and distributed by the City Registrar, the expense to be charged to the appropriation for Printing, item, Registry Department.

Passed. Sent up for concurrence.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, September 27.

Concurred.

The foregoing order was presented to the Mayor, Sept. 27, 1897, and was not returned by him within ten days thereafter.

A true copy.

Attest:

JOHN T. PRIEST,
Assistant City Clerk.

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, April 16, 1894.

The Chairman, for the special committee appointed to represent the City Council at the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett, held at Winthrop Hall, Dorchester, reported that they had attended the said celebration, and that the committee recommended the passage of the following:

ORDERED, That the proceedings at the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett, held at Winthrop Hall, Dorchester, be printed, with illustrative papers, as a public document, and that the City Registrar be directed to edit the same; the expense attending the same to be charged to the appropriation for Printing Department.

Passed. Sent down for concurrence. April 26 came up concurred.

The foregoing order was presented to the Mayor, April 28, 1894, and was not returned by him within ten days thereafter.

A true copy.

Attest:

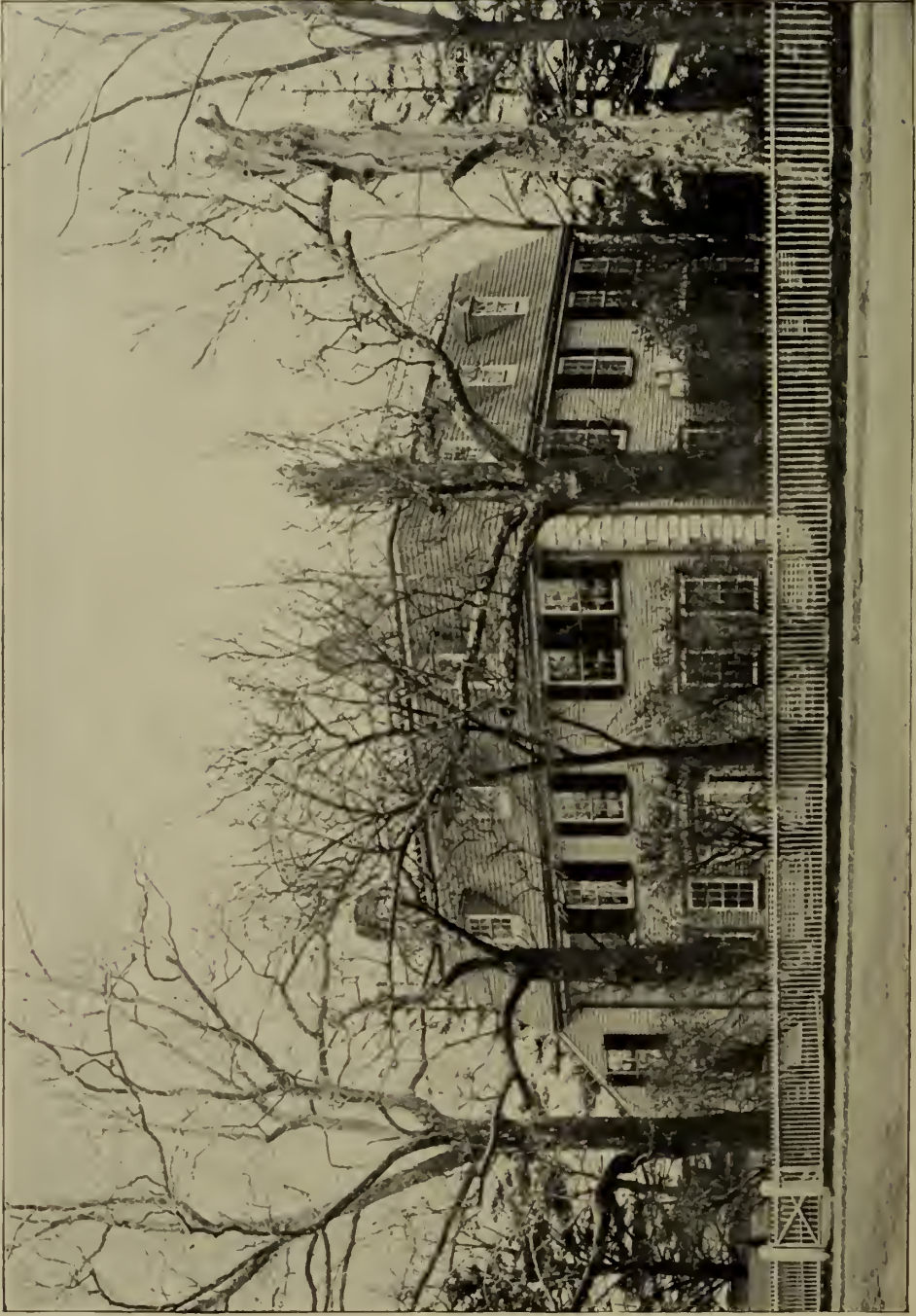
JOHN T. PRIEST,
Asst. City Clerk.

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BIRTHPLACE OF EDWARD EVERETT.

CENTENNIAL SERVICES.

In the spring of 1894, when it became evident that the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett in his native town would devolve upon some private body, the Dorchester Historical Society was designated by public opinion as the most suitable agent.

It was decided to hold services at Winthrop Hall, Upham's Corner, Dorchester, that being a locality near Everett's birth-place, and the task of preparing an address was accepted by the Rev. JAMES DE NORMANDIE.

The following invitation was sent to the City Council of Boston, and official action was taken thereon.

(Proceedings, 1894, p. 314.) In Board of Aldermen, April 2, 1894. Alderman Hall presented the following:

BOSTON, March 24, 1894.

To the Honorable, the City Council of Boston:

Gentlemen: The Dorchester Historical Society proposes to hold a special meeting in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett. The services will be held on Wednesday, April 11, at three o'clock, at Winthrop Hall, Upham's Corner, Dorchester.

I am directed to extend an earnest invitation to the members

of your honorable body to join us in this celebration, to do honor to the memory of our distinguished fellow-citizen.

I remain, yours very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. WHITMORE,
President Dorchester Historical Society.

In connection with the above, Alderman Hall offered an order —

“That the invitation of the Dorchester Historical Society to the City Council of Boston to attend the services in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett be and the same is hereby accepted, and that a special committee to consist of three members of this Board, with such as the Common Council may join, be appointed to formally attend the services in behalf of the City of Boston, and that the official stenographer be invited to accompany the committee.

Passed, under a suspension of the rule. Sent down.”

In the Common Council (Proceedings, 1894, p. 318) the order was passed in concurrence April 5th, and approved by the Mayor.

The Committee appointed consisted of Aldermen Alphens Sanford, (Chairman of the Board,) Boardman Hall and Charles E. Folsom; Councilmen Sidney B. Everett of ward 9, John B. Patterson, Herbert M. Manks and George I. Robinson, jr., all of ward 24, and the President, Christopher F. O'Brien, of ward 6.

The following invitation was sent out to the public, meeting with a generous response which filled the Hall at the appointed hour :

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT WINTHROP HALL, UPHAM'S CORNER, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1894, AT 3 O'CLOCK, BEING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF EDWARD EVERETT. A COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS WILL BE DELIVERED BY REV. JAMES DE NORMANDIE. YOU ARE EARNESTLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

THOS. MAIR, W. B. MENDUM,
W. S. STEVENS, J. H. STARK,

Committee on Invitations.

It was hoped that His Honor Mayor Matthews would preside ; as he was unable to attend, the following letter was read at the meeting :

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
CITY HALL, BOSTON, April 7, 1894.

W. H. Whitmore, President Dorchester Historical Society.

Dear Sir: I regret that the pressure of public business will prevent me from accepting the invitation of your Society to attend the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett.

The career of that eminent scholar and statesman is naturally a source of pride to his native town, and I am pleased to find a local association ready to assume the duty of paying proper respect to his memory. While Boston as a whole is too rich in distinguished citizens to be able to make formal recognition of them all, it is eminently proper that individuals should combine to preserve the records of the past. I trust your Society has before it a long career of usefulness.

Although Edward Everett hardly attained to the position of a popular favorite, his career was a very striking one. A pre-co-

eous and yet a ripe scholar, a useful and beloved clergyman, president of our great university, governor of the Commonwealth, member of both branches of Congress, and of the Cabinet, he seemed to take all branches of learning into his possession.

As Mayor of Boston I am glad to have the opportunity to congratulate the old town of Dorchester, which has become such an important portion of our enlarged city, upon the fame of one of its greatest sons. I do not doubt that a century from now similar honor will be due to others of her children destined to rival or eclipse even a Mather or an Everett.

And I also hope that while local affections and pride are fostered by such celebrations, we shall all be strengthened in our attachment to our city, our Commonwealth, and our nation.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

N. MATTHEWS, JR.

It happened also that the President of the Dorchester Historical Society was compelled to be absent on account of illness, and to content himself with sending the following letter of welcome :

ADDRESS OF WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, PRESIDENT OF THE
DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

There is a special reason that the Dorchester Historical Society should undertake the celebration of this centennial anniversary. When in 1855 our predecessors desired to make fitting recognition of the fact that Dorchester had reached the ripe age of 225 years, Edward Everett cheerfully responded to the call of his fellow citizens and delivered the commemorative address. This was one of the earliest,

most successful and most noted celebrations of its kind, and the oration was a convincing proof of the author's thorough acquaintance with the history of his birth-place as well as an admirable evidence of his wide familiarity with the more general field.

It is therefore not only a grateful task for us to do honor to his memory as a native of this town, but as students of American history we can unhesitatingly claim him as a fellow laborer in the same field.

Leaving to the eloquent speakers who are to follow, the pleasure of describing the scholar, the divine, the statesman and the man, I venture to remind you that we have also a word to say in regard to his birth-place, still happily preserved to our sight, and, as we all hope, long to be treasured for the reverent regard of pilgrims to the spot.

Built probably a century and a half ago, this mansion is a delightful example of the commodious and graceful architecture now recognized as the Colonial style. It was erected by Robert Oliver, an opulent planter who had acquired his wealth in the West Indies. From him it passed to his son Thomas Oliver, the last Lieutenant Governor of this Province; and it was in the hands of his brother-in-law when the royalists fled from Massachusetts. Confiscation followed, and, after passing through several hands, it became the property of Judge Oliver Everett in 1792. A century ago the child

was born therein whose fame is still increasing, after the lapse of the third of a century since his death.

Although Edward Everett left these walls at the age of nine, he remained its owner until 1833, when the house was sold to George Richardson, a most suitable possessor. For another half-century it remained in the hands of an owner who appreciated its memories ; and when death removed a citizen who gave ample proof of his public spirit by the gift of a part of the estate to public use, the house and home-lot were purchased by one of our fellow members. I am sure that you will join me in expressing our pleasure that Dr. William S. Stevens, who now owns this house, has done everything that skill and money can effect to ensure its preservation.

Lastly I have one suggestion to make. Anticipating that some permanent record will be made of our proceedings today, I would suggest that some few excerpts be made from the great volume of obituary notices, published by the City of Boston in 1865, commemorative of Everett's death.

Surely it is no spirit of false modesty which must impress every reader of that volume with the conviction that we had great orators at that period, and that we can better revive their words than attempt to rival them. Especially is this true of the poetry of Oliver Wendell Holmes and the eloquence of Alexander H. Bullock. A judicious

selection from the address of the many distinguished men who had been familiar with Everett through his brilliant and useful career will now serve to revive his memory and to explain the tradition of his wonderful ability.

The Society extends a hearty welcome to those guests who join us on this occasion.

The formal proceedings were opened by the following remarks by THOMAS MAIR, Esq., of Dorchester, Chairman of the Committee on Invitations.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The time has come to open this service, and I know you will regret with me that the condition of his health prevents our president, Mr. William H. Whitmore, from being with us today to preside over this service. He has, however, requested one of our Society to act in his place; a gentleman well known to all the citizens of Boston, and especially familiar to us of Dorchester as a neighbor, and as an efficient and faithful representative in the city government. I have the pleasure of introducing to you Alderman Bordman Hall of Dorchester, as the presiding officer of this memorial service. (Applause.)

MR. HALL — I am very glad, ladies and gentlemen, to have the opportunity to co-operate with my fellow citizens of Dorchester and my associates of

the Dorchester Historical Society in these commemorative services. The ancient First Church of Dorchester is at present without a pastor, but we are fortunate in having present here this afternoon the minister of the Second Church, and I will now call upon the Rev. Dr. Little to offer prayer.

Prayer was then offered by Dr. LITTLE.

Mr. HALL then spoke as follows:

Fellow Citizens: The attendance of the Chairman of the Board of Aldermen, the President of the Common Council, and a Joint Special Committee, is an appropriate participation on the part of the government of the City of Boston in the tribute which we are to pay to the memory of an eminent statesman, orator and scholar. The action of the Dorchester Historical Society in arranging for the observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett was especially appropriate. It is to this Society that we may look for the commemoration of such events.

Dorchester is rich in historic names and localities; they begin with the earliest annals. The civil and ecclesiastical institutions peculiar to the New England town, the Puritan Church, the town meeting, the free public school were planted here, and here was established that ancestry which helped to lay the foundation of our national character. It was

here that the Rev. Oliver Everett came, and here in the homestead where the Olivers had lived, venerable even then, was born Edward Everett. Here, while a child, studious even in his earlier years, was laid the foundation of that ripe scholarship which added to that oratory remarkable for its thought and learning woven in the charm of popular speech.

Massachusetts was well served by Edward Everett as her chief executive and as her representative in the National Legislature. As Minister to England and as a member of the Cabinet, he reflects high credit upon himself and his country.

We have come together to listen to a review of these public services, to contemplate a portraiture of the man by one who paints truthfully and with a skilful hand. The First Church in Roxbury for two and a half centuries has been twin sister to the First Church of Dorchester. In the early days the pastors of these venerable churches were ever co-operating. Their names are very familiar to us; among them were the Rev. Increase Mather, the Apostle Eliot, and the elder Danforth, the ancestor of our beloved townsman, Mr. John J. May. The ancient tie of friendship between these two churches of Roxbury and Dorchester has never grown weak, and today we are honored by the presence of the Roxbury pastor, who will speak to us on Edward Everett. I present to you the Rev. JAMES DE NORMANDIE.

ORATION.

Gentlemen, Members of the Dorchester Historical Society, who have shown such an interest in all that concerns the welfare of your Ancient Town, and Friends to the Memory of Edward Everett:

Jesus the son of Sirach, a learned citizen of Jerusalem in the second century before our era, wrote :

“Let us now praise famous men . . . leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions.”

Since the first great acts of man, the world has been doing this, for the world must have leaders, ideal men, whether for strength or courage or learning or genius or eloquence or soul. Poor indeed is that town, that state, that heart which has not its hero to praise, some great memory, as well as some great hope, some great achievement, as well as some great inspiration. Hero-worship is not only pardonable, it is a necessary step in human progress. There is nothing which

so kindles the enthusiasm of youth, or confirms the faith of age, as to call to mind famous men.

It is in obedience to this instinct of man that we are gathered this afternoon, here near the spot which gave him birth, not for indiscriminate praise, but for that fair estimate of a commanding man which only the lapse of years makes possible, as it buries fulsome flattery, or partisan criticism alike, in its Lethean stream; that the generation which knew him, may bear on to the generation which knew him not, some of the worthy and in some ways, great, qualities and gifts of Edward Everett.

There are many, I doubt not, who will join me, in this gracious task only the more gladly, because of characteristics in this life, with which in times of great struggle and bitterness in our nation's history, we were not in entire accord.

Let me begin by saying with perfect frankness, right here among his townsmen, among some who knew him intimately, and loved him deeply, and marked every step, and listened to every word with unmingled admiration, that on the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, studying his character, when the angry tumult of the past generation has been laid to rest, I think far more highly of Edward Everett than I did thirty years ago. Born into the dawn of the anti-slavery struggle, of Quaker lineage holding so firmly to its first principle of personal freedom that my

earliest recollections are of hearing such a question as this when we sat down at a meal as invited guests, "Art thou quite sure that there are no rewards of slave labor on thy table?"—it was hard to give much praise to any man, whose ringing words might count for so much, and yet who was as silent as the Egyptian Sphinx before a movement of such supreme importance.

We of the anti-slavery faith could ill bear that an orator of such remarkable presence, and winsome voice, who had such a felicitous faculty and habit of weaving passing incidents and anecdotes into his speech, that when he went to Brunswick to give his lecture on Washington, and all Bath came to hear him, he told of the wife of a Bath ship-master disabled by sickness, taking command of her husband's vessel and bringing it in good condition from San Francisco, so that it seemed as if the lecture were written around that incident; but that when he gave the same lecture at Hartford, on the very day on which Charles Sumner was struck down in the Senate Hall, and when all New England was ringing with the threats of righteous indignation, he could pass in utter silence that greatest crime that a long-suffering North had to bear.

And although he repeated that famous oration one hundred and twenty-nine times throughout the land, raising for Mount Vernon the magnificent

sum of over sixty-eight thousand dollars, he omitted to mention the one act, which, touched by his magic words, would have been the glory of the oration, and which was in those years the crowning merit of the statesman's life to the human heart of America, — that Washington tore the fetters from his own slaves, and made them freemen.

There were many things, in that great conflict, hard for the friends of the anti-slavery cause ever to forget, in the calculating silence of so many men eminent in gifts and in station ; — and of men too who were so noble, so full of sympathy for the oppressed, such true patriots, such lovers of humanity. *It points a lesson however for the young men of every generation, — when you are in doubt in the great game of life, over any moral question, PLAY THE CARD OF HUMAN LIBERTY.*

Everett was very like Channing in this respect. Both at heart were anti-slavery; both at heart prayed and labored for human welfare; but Channing too did not like the methods and the noise of the agitators. Men of great refinement, of a sensitive nature, can ill bear the somewhat harsh measures, and often the rude manners, of reformers, — for those who already have the successes, the easy places and the strong positions of life cannot see how society is greatly astray or how to go about to better it; — and it was only after Samuel J. May, burning with an enthusiasm

which for the moment overcame his reverence for Dr. Channing, exclaimed — “Why have *you* not spoken to the nation long ago, as you, better than any other, could have spoken?” — that Dr. Channing replied, — “I *have been* silent too long,” — and he, the most commanding character in this land, was silent no longer.

Oh, if Edward Everett too, could have lifted up that voice of his, purer and more ringing than any Moscow bells, to reach to all our borders, — he who could say such withering words for slavery in Greece, and bondage in Rome, and oppression everywhere except at home in this land he truly loved so well, — we can all see now how the conflict might have been avoided. But this is only to say that if all men loved the truth, error would not be; if all men strove for peace, strife would vanish; if all men practised the virtues they praise, a commonwealth far better than any ideal republic would be already established. The steps of humanity must be slow, and through great dangers, and awful conflicts, and desolating wars.

When too the fierce struggle was drawing to its successful issue; when it was safe to be anti-slavery, and popular to be on the side of the Union, it was hard to hear these voices of leading clergymen and writers, which had been silent, and the eloquence which had been turned to other

themes, receiving such unbounded plaudits; and to find their friends and descendants trying to make it appear that they were all the time on the anti-slavery side.

Still we have for them only gratitude,—they were famous men and we praise them. They were true to their way of meeting these questions; they loved their country as much as we did. It is a part of the old wonder, and the old condemnation, that these who came at the eleventh hour, have been made equal unto those which have borne the burden and heat of the conflict. *We* can say with Bryant: "If I have uttered anything in derogation of Mr. Everett's public character at times when it seemed to me that he did not resist with becoming spirit the aggressions of wrong, I now, looking back upon his noble record, retract it at his grave. I lay upon his hearse the declaration of my sorrow that I saw not the depth of his worth, that I did not discern under the conservatism that formed a part of his nature, that generous courage which a great emergency could so nobly awaken."

Edward Everett had too, firmness in dealing with any matter, when he came face to face with its moral issues; for before slavery became a partisan question, once when a colored boy was offered for examination at Harvard, and it was suggested that he would not be admitted, Mr.

Everett said, "the admission to Harvard College depends upon examination; and if this boy passes the examination, he will be admitted; and if the white students choose to withdraw, all the income of the college will be devoted to his education;" for he thoroughly believed in the possible intellectual development of the colored race. But we must remember that this incident which always received the warmest applause was early in his life, and before slavery had become a bitterly partisan issue.

It is almost incredible, how early that literary life began, which was pursued with such diligence, and with such rich results to the very last. Near the house where he was born, was a dame-school, and here at the age of three he learned to read before he was out of his child-lisp. Before he was five he must have spoken that little piece (there are surely some of my younger hearers to whom it is new, and for their sake the older will forgive what to them is so familiar) which was written for Everett's first public declamation by Dr. Thaddeus Mason Harris, the minister of the First Church of Dorchester, for his little boy with the roan colored hair.

" Pray how should I, a little lad,
In speaking, make a figure?
You're only joking, I'm afraid,—
Do wait till I am bigger.

But since you wish to hear my part
 And urge me to begin it,
 I'll strive for praise, with all my heart,
 Though small the hope to win it.
 I'll tell a tale how Farmer John,
 A little roan-colt bred, sir,
 And every night, and every morn
 He watered and he fed, sir.
 Said neighbor Joe to Farmer John,
 'Aren't you a silly dolt, sir,
 To spend such time and care upon
 A little useless colt, sir?'
 Said Farmer John to neighbor Joe,
 'I'll bring my little roan up,
 Not for the good he now can do,
 But will do when he's grown up.'
 The moral you can well espy,
 To keep the tale from spoiling,
 The little colt, you think, is I, —
 I know it by your smiling.
 And now, my friends, please to excuse
 My lisping and my stammers;
 I, for this once, have done my best,
 And so — I'll make my manners."

As my personal recollections of Edward Everett begin with him at church, let me speak next of his life as a minister, which included however such a brief period of his busy career. Before I was ordained, one very hot Sunday in July, I was preaching in the church then on Chauncey Place, when the first person I recognized in the congregation was Mr. Everett, then near the close of his distinguished life. There is always perhaps a momentary shudder on the part of a young minister

when he attempts to speak before persons venerable in the experiences of life, who have thought so much more profoundly than himself about the deep problems of religion, who have every mental equipment, and are perfect in speech. What can they care about the superficial utterances of one who knows so little of the things of the spirit — or the staggering questions of existence, of the Eternal? But the reflection which restores one to self-possession is that he has the authority of those who *do* know of these things in the only way they can be known, — by the power of the spirit: that he is a messenger of the Christ; that behind him is the lesson of the ages; that around him are the same crying needs: and with all these, the difference of a few years counts for little. The aged and the most cultivated are always found to be the most lenient critics of the young.

In the afternoon of that sweltering summer Sunday, in that church, with its glass roof which might have been designedly planned for the roasting of heretics, he was again in his pew, — full of pressing cares, a multitude of addresses on every subject of literature and of statesmanship, busy as most of us would have hardly a right to use the word, — and yet with time enough to be in his place at church twice every Sunday to bear testimony to the need and helpfulness and joy of worship; time too with all dignity and graciousness to say

a word of satisfaction and encouragement to the young minister not yet out of his divinity studies.

Edward Everett was not quite twenty years old when he was ordained a minister over the old Brattle Square Church in Boston, and persons who were present speak of that event, and the interest it created in Boston, as unparalleled. With a youthful modesty, even timidity, yet with a dignity which became the maturest years, and with a deep sense of the reverence which became the sanctuary, it was thought that the mantle of the gifted and lamented Buckminster had indeed fallen upon him. Sunday after Sunday that church was crowded beyond example with the most interested congregations.

His ministry was very brief, only about two years, when he abandoned theology to give his attention to education and literature. I am not aware that he ever dropped into any ear the reasons which induced him, after so brief a trial, to give up a profession for which he had been so well fitted, and in which there lay before him the most abundant and helpful promise. While he was settled over the Brattle Square Church, he published a book on the "Evidences of Christianity," and although it is not of the least worth among theological scholars of today, it shows the spirit of wonderful energy, of careful preparation, of thorough training, which Mr. Everett carried

into everything that he undertook. For a young man, with the care of a large parish, it was a stupendous labor. It shows too that there must have been in him something of the love of controversy, as also does that letter of his, published a few years later, to a friend who asked his advice about leaving the Congregational order of worship to go where there was a liturgy, because he liked a form of prayer and because it would please his wife. Although it is written in a tone of considerable bitterness, and with expressions which in later years he would hardly have used, it shows how true he always was to his convictions. "I too," he said, "am fond of a *form* of prayer, but I like *the substance* of prayer better," and "I am not prepared to see fashion, example, persuasion and courtesy go to such length, and carry Christians to an altar where they cannot take their hearts and consciences with them."

Mr. Everett preached very rarely after he gave up the ministry, but of a sermon in Washington in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Justice Story wrote, "the sermon was truly splendid and was heard with breathless silence." Rufus King said that he "had never heard a discourse so full of unction, eloquence and good taste"; and John Quincy Adams, careful and critical church-goer, putting into his diary his judgment of every sermon and every preacher, said "it was without

comparison the most splendid composition as a sermon that I ever heard delivered."

There was not only the remarkable acquirement of one so young, there was not only gracefulness and eloquence and dignity and reverence, but there was the strange, indescribable influence of a marvellously sweet and resonant voice. A friend of mine said, "I use not the word *silver* as a hackneyed term, to any voice that has the element of sweetness, but several years ago, listening to the bells of Moscow which have a maximum of silver, and are almost all the time ringing, I was perpetually reminded of Mr. Everett's oratory." "This," said Henry Clay, "is the acme of eloquence."

When Mr. Everett gave up the Brattle Square Pulpit for the Chair of Greek at Harvard, there was not only great surprise but great disappointment. It was thought that he had chosen an inferior position: that he was hiding his light. Perhaps he knew better where his real gifts and preferences lay. Immediately began that wonderful career in literature and politics, which for its diligence, its thorough training, its varied and elegant knowledge, its absolute rectitude, and its unfaltering patriotism, has hardly been surpassed in our history. The Phi Beta Kappa Oration in 1824, which was the greatest opportunity of his life, was most grandly met. There is but one voice in the

traditions of the brilliant scene and his overpowering eloquence. The old Church in Cambridge was packed to its uttermost. Lafayette had come back in his old age to visit the land for whose liberties he had fought in his youth, and a grateful and admiring country followed every step and hung upon every word. The most cultivated audience this country could gather was eager to hear the orator whose reputation was already so high, and in its midst was the hero and patriot of two lands. The audience listened with hushed breath and deepening admiration; and when Everett ended with those words of welcome to Lafayette, which every school boy knows, it was with a triumph of eloquence which has rarely occurred in the world's history. Every face was bathed in tears. The audience shook and swayed with emotion, and then burst into tremendous cheers.

At once Everett's popularity became so great that he was loudly and persistently appealed to, to enter politics, and in 1825 he became a member of Congress. As when he left the ministry for literature, there was great surprise and regret, still more was he found fault with for exchanging the peaceful kingdom of letters for the noisy arena of politics, or as one of his critics said, "that a gem of such rare water, should be so unprofitably set."

I do not share this feeling in the least. I am not at all surprised at the fascination of politics over

so many minds; and surely we see to-day as never before, that there is for us no security and no progress until those of the finest gifts, and the best culture, and the highest purpose, enter that sphere.

From that time to the close of his days what a full and rich life his was, with only perhaps the shadow of disappointment that for a few years his own state was not in greater sympathy with his conservatism. As Minister to the Court of St. James, as President of Harvard, as Secretary of State of the United States, as Senator from Massachusetts, as nominee for Vice-President, (on a forlorn hope indeed) every honor was conferred upon him. Universities at home and abroad vied with each other in giving him their degrees, and no occasion was complete without the grace and finish of his classical eloquence. And everything that he did was so finished. It reminds you of those days in Athens when men hurried even before the dawn, to listen to the conversation of those orators whose speech was as finished as the Parthenon. You may say that he studied his intonation, that he practised his gestures for days before the glass, that there was nothing spontaneous, nothing unpremeditated, yet the fact remains his oratory was graceful and attractive and convincing. I have been told that in one of his orations he used a certain figure, and illustrated it by dipping his finger in a glass at his side, and

raising it let fall a drop of water. It seemed simple, natural, unpremeditated, forcible, and yet weeks before he first did it he had corresponded with the most accomplished elocutionists, as to its propriety and effect. It was this marvellous habit and work of preparation which made him ready, even at a moment's notice, to speak with such persuasion. Many others have practised all those arts with no results whatever. With him everything was so artistically finished that at the end of his addresses you felt like saying as Voltaire did of a favorite work, that he could praise it in no other way than by writing at the bottom of every page, "pulchré, bené, optimé."

His power of working was remarkable. Most of us under the stress of our engagements think that if we spend sixteen, eighteen or twenty-one hours at our desks without interruption we are doing fairly well; and when one asked a great German student how many hours he spent a day at his work, he answered with a sigh, "Ach, nur leider achtzehn." Yet in the preparation of one of his important state papers, Edward Everett spent 35 hours of unbroken toil. How often at the close of a busy day have I looked, not without a momentary feeling of envy, at a company of workmen laying down their tools at the stroke of the clock with an alacrity with which I never saw them take them up, while I had still before me more

hours than they would say made a full day's labor: and yet, they are called the working classes!

Perhaps there has not been another American who made the acquaintance, or received the hospitality, of so many of the aristocracy of Europe; Queen Victoria, the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, Napoleon III., the Emperor of Austria, the Kings of Prussia, Saxony, Hanover, Naples, the Netherlands, Belgium; three kings of France, Louis XVIII., Charles X., Louis Philippe; Pope Pius VII. He enjoyed to the uttermost all that centuries of care, culture, art, refinement, had gathered around these Courts, and yet he never was more truly and unwaveringly a proud American than in their midst. He saw what there was in aristocracy that was fine, and he liked it, for that was a part of his nature too, but he saw through and beyond all that, to something of which those aristocracies had caught no glimpse. "The sound of my native language beyond the sea," he said, "is music to my ear beyond the strains of Tuscan softness or Castilian majesty." Indeed it was no infrequent criticism made upon Edward Everett that his constant and exalted praises of his own land abroad, partook too much of the nature of a Fourth of July oration. Let us not be troubled or jealous, if with all that is coarse and degraded which we are receiving from those old lands, something comes to us of all that is refined and refining; and let

us not speak harshly of our foreign ministers who enjoy it, and praise it. It will not harm us, we have room for much of it, and it will not make us less American, nor less patriotic.

It has been utterly impossible in so brief a notice of this distinguished man to even touch upon his many contributions to education, and to government, or to enter into any comparison with other scholars, orators and statesmen. The future years can do that still better than the present,—but in many respects he was truly great. At the age of twenty, when most young men are thinking what they will do in life, he was already eminent; and then in rapid succession came all the highest offices which an admiring state or nation could offer to him. He had not the massiveness of Webster, nor the flashing oratory of Phillips, nor the fiery utterance of Burke, but I do not know where to name one who combined more gifts of nature, with varied, elegant and ripe culture. His life from the beginning was without soil and without suspicion. Like Marcus Aurelius, he held to the divine will “whatever anyone does or says, I must be emerald and keep my color.” No mean nor unclean thing could come near him. Once when he was showing the value of art, culture and refinement, being asked, ‘what is it good for,’—he exclaimed “What is anything good for except as it refines and ennobles, and brings out the divine in man.”

His home-life was warm, tender and sweet. No man ever loved his country more truly or fervently, nor served it more faithfully, nor more unselfishly, making at the end only one request, that on his grave might be this epitaph — “through evil report and through good report, he loved his whole country.” — And he did.

It is well to keep before the coming generation such a life. It is a life to be proud of, to put in the list of famous men, to praise. Some patriot in a country's darkest hour; some prophet hearing the word of the Lord in his own soul; some evangelist of a new Gospel; some Socrates saving the youth of his land from corruption; some Winkelried gathering the enemies' spears into his own breast; some Plato on whose lips the Attic bees had left their honey but not their sting; these are the men who make a land noble, and whom, by commemoration, we would multiply: — and when yonder home has fallen to decay; when every trace of his ways among us has vanished; when all the rural surroundings of his childhood have yielded to the growing demands of this busy city; when the last man who listens with joy to the story of his gifts, and then adds, “but I have heard him speak,” has gone; century after century, our citizens will gather here to keep with grateful hearts the birthday of Edward Everett.

ALDERMAN HALL: The Dorchester Historical Society is peculiarly fortunate in having for a vice-president one who is by instinct an antiquarian. On very short notice — yesterday afternoon, later than two o'clock — he very kindly consented to give us this afternoon a sketch of the Everett house, the birthplace of Edward Everett. It was expected that another would prepare this sketch, but owing to illness he was unable to do so.* I have the pleasure of introducing to you Mr. James H. Stark.

ADDRESS OF JAMES H. STARK, OF THE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE BIRTH-PLACE OF EDWARD EVERETT.**

Much interest has been shown of late years in regard to the house in which Edward Everett was born, not only from the fact of his birth there, but because the building is a fine example of Colonial architecture. I have therefore prepared a history of the house and its owners as a contribution to the work in which our Historical Society is engaged.

About 1737, Robert Oliver, a wealthy planter from Antigua, settled in Dorchester. His parentage is unknown, though he may have been the son of a Francis Oliver, who was in Dorchester in 1667.***

* The reference was to the President of the Society, whose notes will be found in the appendix.

** Only the outline of this paper was read at the meeting.

*** Besides the well-known families of the name of Oliver, SAVAGE mentions David O. of Pemaquid, 1670; Joseph of Scarboro, 1670; Nathaniel (a tailor) of Boston, 1651; John of Boston, 1683; Thomas of Salem, 1637, with son Thomas and John; Richard of Salem, 1688, and Thomas of Fairfield, Conn., 1660. There was a Robert Oliver of Boston, seaman, whose administrator was his brother-in-law, John Burns.

He brought a wife, Anne, and one son Thomas, who became later the last Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Massachusetts. In our town Robert bought a number of pieces of land, of which 30 acres had been the property of Comfort Foster; and on this homestead lot, he built in 1745 a fine mansion which took the place of a more modest house. This mansion was on the corner of the way to Dorchester Neck, (now Boston street), and on its side was the way over Fire-stone Hill, (now Pond street). Tradition records that he brought many black slaves with him, and dwells with scornful pity upon the fact that they carried burdens on their heads, in ignorance of the proper use of a Yankee wheel-barrow. (See New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vi, 237.)

In Dorchester, Robert Oliver had born to him sons Isaac and Richard, and a daughter Elizabeth who became the wife of John Vassall, Jr. Sept. 20 1751 his wife died; and in December 1762 he followed her. The Boston Post Boy for Dec. 20 1762 has the following brief obituary. "Thursday Morning last, died at his Seat in Dorchester, in the 63d Year of his Age, Col. Robert Oliver. A Gentleman of an extensive Acquaintance, remarkable for his Hospitality to All, was Kind to the Poor, and in his Military Character belov'd and esteem'd: his Family and Neighbours have met with a great Loss in this Bereavement. His Remains are to be interr'd

Tomorrow at 3 o'clock in the Family Tomb at Dorchester."

About two years before this, Thomas, the oldest son of Robert Oliver, had married Elizabeth daughter of Col. John Vassall of Cambridge, making a double connection by marriage between these two families. Robert Oliver in his will gave his son Thomas, a suit of mourning, a ring and twenty shillings, and no more, because Thomas's grandfather James Brown and his great-uncle Robert Oliver had already given him a greater estate than the father could.

Thomas Oliver, a graduate of Harvard in 1753, thus began life under the most favorable auspices. His father-in-law was John Vassall of Cambridge, who married the daughter of Lt.-Gov. Spencer Phips. Closely allied with them by marriage were the Royalls, all three families being probably originally of New England, then resident in Antigua, and returning here to enjoy their acquired wealth. All three families built houses which have lasted to our time; Royall in Medford, Vassall in Cambridge, and Oliver in Dorchester.

Thomas Oliver remained for several years in Dorchester after his father's death, as two daughters were born there; the latter child, born in 1766, was baptized at Cambridge. Paige, in his history of that town, says that Oliver built in 1766 the fine mansion recently owned and occupied by James Russell Lowell.

Thomas Oliver was President of the Governor's Council (the Mandamus Council), and in 1774, by a curious mistake, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor. His immediate predecessor was Andrew Oliver, of a totally distinct family, and it is understood that the King thought he was appointing a brother of Andrew. He was forced by a popular uprising to resign this position, and quitted Cambridge, never to return. He remained in Boston for a year and left it in March, 1776, with the British troops. He lived in England for nearly forty years, dying at Bristol, Eng. 20 Nov. 1815, aged 82. Though he forfeited a large estate here, he was wealthy from his possessions in the West Indies; still owned by his descendants. He had six daughters, of whom Mary married Charles Anthony Partridge and Ann married ——— Anderson. It is also stated that Thomas Oliver took for his second wife Harriet, daughter of Byam Freeman of Antigua.

As to Robert Oliver's children, his will mentions four, viz. Elizabeth (Vassall), Thomas, Richard and Isaae. In 1763 (Suff. Deeds 101, f. 35), Thomas bought for £1,200 the undivided share of his sister. In 1767 (Suff. Deeds, 110, f. 222) he bought for £1,200 the share of his brother Richard Oliver, of Fenehureh street, London. Isaac seems to have disappeared entirely, but he did not die in Dorchester.

As already noted, Thomas Oliver disposed of his property in Dorchester when he went to Cambridge. On July 1, 1766 (Suff. Deeds 109, f. 169) he sold to Ebenezer and Lemuel Clap, about 39 acres of land, reserving only the mansion-house and barn, and the land in front of it. This lot with the reservation covered almost precisely the original possessions of Comfort Foster, because Foster sold, 29 April 1729, (Suff. Deeds 45, f. 77) to Jonas Humphrey 8 acres and 19 rods of marsh, north of the home lot of 30 acres which he sold to Jacob Royall and which Robert Oliver bought. But 14 March 1745-6, Jonas Humphrey sold these 8 acres to Robert Oliver, (Suff. Deeds 72, f. 242), and Thomas Oliver inherited 39 acres, and more.

We do not know who occupied the Oliver house for the next few years, but on 11 May, 1770, (Suff. Deeds 117, f. 54) Thomas Oliver sold the house etc. with three and one-half acres of land, for £250 to Richard Lechmere giving him also about half an acre on the south front bounded easterly by land of old Mr. Jeffries, and on the other three sides by the high road. This little strip has remained appurtenant to the house always, until the late John Richardson gave it to the city for a park.

Richard Lechmere was the uncle by marriage of Oliver's wife, he having married Mary Phips, whose

sister Elizabeth married Col. John Vassall. Richard was born about 1727, and was one of the seven children of Thomas L., an Englishman of good family who came here and married, in 1709, Ann, daughter of Waitstill Winthrop. Thomas was for many years Surveyor General of the Customs in the northern district of America. At his death he left sons Nicholas and Richard, both refugees. Richard Lechmere died in Bristol, Eng. in 1814 aged 87.

We will now trace the house and land. Richard Lechmere sold them 15 January 1771, to Ezekiel Lewis (Suff. Deeds 118 f. 232); and Lewis sold them 4 April 1771, (Suff. Deeds 119, f. 36) to John Vassall. Vassall was a Royalist and a refugee, and was banished by act of the Legislature, his property being confiscated. On June 12, 1781, (Suff. Deeds 133, f. 110) Richard Cranch, Samuel Henshaw and Samuel Barrett, a committee for such purposes, sold the property to John Williams.

Jonathan Williams, John Williams and Elizabeth Williams, executors of the will of John Williams, on November 24, 1786, sold it to Bossinger Foster, (Suff. Deeds 159 f. 110.)

Bossinger Foster sold it to Lucretia Callahan, November 2, 1787, (Suff. Deeds 161 f. 145).

John and Lucretia Callahan sold it to Oliver Everett, November 10, 1792, (Suff. Deeds 174 f. 213).

Rev. Oliver Everett died on November 19th 1802. The following spring his widow with her family removed to Boston. From this time, until it was sold by Edward Everett, no members of the family resided there, it being leased to various persons.

Edward Everett sold it to George Richardson November 10, 1833, (Norfolk Deeds 102 f. 299.)

The executors of the will of John Richardson* sold to William Stanford Stevens a part of the estate (Suff. Deeds 1852-246-48).

The present owner, Dr. William Stanford Stevens, bought it October 19, 1888, mainly from patriotic motives, and he has done much to restore the mansion to its former appearance, so that its preservation is assured for many years.

ALDERMAN HALL. — We have with us this afternoon one who needs no introduction to a Dorchester audience, one who is well known for his broad, liberal, earnest views on all subjects, and whose words are welcomed no matter what he may choose to speak on. I take pleasure in introducing to you the Rev. W. E. C. Smith.

*John Richardson, who inherited the property from his brother George, was a well-known citizen who resided here for many years. He possessed a strong love for horticulture, and under his skilful direction the estate was beautifully adorned.

He gave to the city, at his death, which occurred September 22, 1887, the plot of land known as Richardson Park as the following extract from his will shows (Probate Records, vol. 595, f. 11, October 17, 1887.)

“I give and bequeath to the city of Boston the piece of land belonging to my estate, between Pond and Cottage streets, to be used as a park or any other purpose except being sold for house lots, otherwise it reverts to the heirs of my estate.

ADDRESS OF REV. W. E. C. SMITH.

I am sure we have all listened with interest, and, I trust, with profit to the fine oration that has been delivered here, this afternoon, and it seems to me almost a matter of regret that we cannot allow that oration to linger in our minds without, some of us, at least, speaking for myself, adding a word which may possibly dispel some of those pleasant thoughts which have already been left in our minds. But I was reminded, as I listened to what Dr. DeNormandie said, of something which Carlyle once wrote in his book on Hero Worship. He said, that he could conceive of no truly great man who might not be all sorts of men, his thought being that if a man is truly great in one particular that man must necessarily be great in anything which he might undertake. We know perfectly well that Mr. Everett was great as a scholar; we have been reminded of that. We know also that Mr. Everett was great as a teacher. We have been charmed, also, to listen to a description of his greatness as a statesman, which certainly is refreshing in this age when we feel the need so much of statesmanship. (Applause.) We know perfectly well that Mr. Everett was great as an orator. And I like to think of him as great in that one short period of his service when he

ministered as a clergyman at the church in Brattle square, the old Brattle Street Church.

It has been said that his ministry was a short one, of perhaps two years, but that ministry was so fine, so superb in certain characteristics, that I think we may well pause and think of it, and we shall doubtless find that it was great, just as we might expect it to be great.

There are three things which unmistakably characterize Mr. Everett's ministry. The first is this, that he always welcomed new knowledge. He never was afraid of any learning. He knew perfectly well, what we need never forget, that there is no knowledge in all this universe of God that can do any harm to faith, if that faith be real and if that faith be true. I think there is too much disposition on the part of those who hold faith and who cling to truth to be afraid lest some new learning, possibly brought from lands across the sea, possibly engendered here in our land, shall in some way undermine God's truth. Everett never felt that. Everett was absolutely certain that the truth of God could not be harmed by any knowledge that men may achieve, but, on the contrary, must be enriched and given a brighter light and a greater efficiency. And so he welcomed new learning.

I remember that he lived in the age when the influence of Goethe was very great, —

Goethe, the great prophet who anticipated the science of Darwin, the science of Spencer and of Wallace. Everett was familiar with the thought of Goethe, his literary power and his scientific genius. It was the age when the great historian Niebuhr revolutionized history, and told men that they had been considering as history that which of its very self testified to the fact that it was fabulous; and Niebuhr gave to history a credible position, and made it that factor for power which it is today. And Everett was familiar with that new spirit of historic criticism. Then there was another great masterly mind that was making itself felt throughout the world at that time, and that was the great philosopher Hegel. Everett was conscious of that learning, that new knowledge which came through the successor of Kant. He welcomed all this knowledge, he had no fear of it. Without the slightest hesitation he was glad to receive any learning that he could find in this world, knowing that it would only make him the more efficient minister and servant of Jesus Christ.

Then there was a second great element, it seems to me, in his ministry, which follows from this. He not only had the courage of his faith, and did not for one moment dread new learning; he had also a supreme confidence in the capacity of men. He was not afraid to give all that he had to men. The wealth of his knowl-

edge he was ready to pour out to those who listened to him in Brattle Street. Mr. Curtis has told us, in one of those fine papers of his in the Easy Chair, what a superb treat it was to go into the Brattle Street Church and listen to Mr. Everett, as he used his great learning that it might make clearer and more helpful the great truths of the Christian religion. Mr. Everett did not say of the people to whom he was speaking, "I will accommodate myself to them; I will not tell them all the truth because they are not familiar with the most recent scholarship, and they may be a little disturbed, possibly." "Milk for babes," the Apostle Paul said that on an occasion when it was necessary. Everett did not feel that it was necessary for him to withhold anything in his ministry. He had that thought, that one thought, that he would give all that he had if it were the truth. "I will tell the truth and I believe that it will vindicate itself, and that it will not be something that shall overthrow the faith of those to whom I am ministering." He did not feel this possible to accommodate himself to lower standards and partial disclosures, seeming to be almost impertinent, in thinking that people's minds were not capable of receiving all that their minister was capable of receiving.

And, finally, there is another element of his greatness which I hasten to speak of now

because we need to speak of it. We have heard something said today about the refinement of Mr. Everett, the delicacy of his touch in whatever he worked, in whatever service he gave himself. He stands before us as a man chivalrous and courtly, a man, we may say, who was every inch a gentleman. Whatever he dwelt upon in his public discourses, he always touched with a care and with a superb refinement and grace which was always fascinating, and which, I think, must always command our respect. It was so with religious matters, with those truths which he had to do with in his ministry. He never was common or vulgar. He never did at any time one thing that would degrade the great truths of God. In this age in which we are living, I regret to say that we are treated to the wretched spectacle of seeing men whose business it is to deal with religious subjects, treat those subjects in a common and in a vulgar manner. I claim that there is no thoroughly pious nature, there is no man sensitive to the sanctities of God, that is not stung and stunned by the familiarity with which some preachers and prophets treat God and man, duty and immortality.

Edward Everett always walked as one who had taken his shoes from off his feet because he knew he was standing upon holy ground. He never for one moment allowed himself to degrade the

great truths of God by professing familiarity, by taking God so intimately into his nature that he could talk about him as he might talk, possibly, about the common, everyday affairs of his life. I consider that to be a great element in the man's character. It was characteristic of the man. Always a gentleman, always fine, always sensitive to beauty and to perfection, when it came to the preaching of the Gospel there still was that delicacy and refinement of manner, that grace, that beauty, which made men feel the power of his ministry and the singular power and inspiration of his sermons. And whenever he preached, even though men might not yield their convictions to him, his utterances always commanded their respect, and always their admiration and confidence.

There is an ancient story of how certain men were engaged in burying in the fields a dead man, and as they looked toward the horizon they saw a band of Moabites, and in haste they hurled the body into the sepulchre where there had been buried long years before a distinguished prophet of God. Then the quaint, beautiful story tells us that when this dead body touched the bones of Elisha, it revived and stood upon its feet.

You know what that story means. It means that in that age, the childhood of civilization, men learned the great lesson that no true and great man can ever speak for God and for man in this

world, and such a life cease to have its influence. Men learned the great truth then that we have been told today, that a man though dead may yet speak; that the dull, despairing and dead can be quickened by the life of a good and great man, even though his presence be withdrawn from us.

I am glad today that there are so many young people here. It is a pleasure to me to see children here especially. I want to tell the children what I remember reading as a lad in one of Plutarch's stories. Plutarch said, in the introduction to one of his lives, that when he first began to write biographies he did so for the sake of other people, but he learned by and by, as he went on writing, that he was writing these biographies not so much, or certainly not always, for the sake of other people, but for his own sake, because in the lives of the great and good men of Greece and Rome he could see how to adjust and adorn his own character. Edward Everett's influence has not ceased to be felt; and I believe that as we come to dwell in the thoughts of the future upon his life, its superb gentlemanliness, its fine grace, and its devotion to the public service, that that life will prove to be a power and a factor in helping us to shape our own lives and live more generously and more nobly for the service of our fellow men. (Applause.)

ALDERMAN HALL.—There is present this afternoon one who has been an educator for more than a half a century, and who has been master of the Dorchester High School for a quarter of a century. He was the personal friend, and the close friend, of Edward Everett, and at one time the teacher, the instructor, of Dr. William Everett, now Congressman Everett, and one who has always been known to us as deeply learned in all historical matters. We shall be pleased to hear from Dr. Elbridge Smith.

ADDRESS OF DR. ELBRIDGE SMITH.

Mr. Chairman: I did not expect to be called upon this afternoon. I know something of that nature was said to me yesterday, but I supposed that what I said then and repeated this afternoon would be considered as a decisive declination. I rise, however, under the impulse of intense interest in this occasion; and although I may not be wise in so doing, I venture to add a little to the story of the colored boy. I went to Cambridge the year after Beverly Williams died,— (for that was the name of the colored student, who would have entered Harvard College, had he lived) — and his friends happened to become my friends. He was under the care of the Rev. Joseph Wilberforce Parker, D.D., the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Cambridge, who was a strong anti-slavery man, and a true Christian gentleman. I cannot state how he first became acquainted with

Beverly, but he determined, as he had means, to give him a good education. He sent him to the Hopkins Classical School. He had previously been connected for a time with the Cambridge High School, but it was in the Hopkins Classical School that he came in contact with Mr. Everett's son.

You will find an account of Beverly Williams in one of Mr. Everett's orations (vol. 3, p. 183), before the Colonization Society in the city of Washington. There Mr. Everett, in the midst of an audience strongly sympathizing with the slavery party, ventured — he did not venture — he did, just what his noble heart prompted him to do; he gave Beverly Williams over to immortality by mentioning his name as a schoolmate of his son and as the first Latin scholar in the school. (Applause.) And he did that where some anti-slavery men of that day would have carefully avoided any complimentary allusion to a negro.

I could spend much time in speaking about Mr. Everett, but I am wiser than to do so. I think no one of our public men has been more underrated than Edward Everett. It is a common impression (I meet with the expression of it constantly) that he did everything by intense labor. How many times I have heard scornfully this remark: "Oh, I don't want to hear anything about him; everything that he did smells of the

midnight oil." I have heard this until I am weary of it, and I venture to improve this opportunity to enter an humble remonstrance against it. It is false.

The truth, ladies and gentlemen, is this. Mr. Everett was a true man, and whenever he had an engagement he prepared himself properly for it, but when he was taken by surprise he was always ready. Four of the speeches in his volumes, to my certain knowledge, were given without the slightest notice. I once took particular pains to introduce him to an audience, when he did not know, until he was ushered into the room, that there was a human being in the building besides the party with which he was connected. One from the audience came forward and addressed him in a formal welcome. He replied with just the same freedom with which he always spoke, the same beauty. The editor of the paper in that city came and asked for a copy. I said to him, "I think I can get you a copy, but don't report him." He had a great horror of reporters. I went to Mr. Everett and asked him if he could give me a copy of his remarks. He said, "If I can recall them when I get back to Boston, I will do so with pleasure, but I shall not be in Boston until a week from next Saturday." I told the editor, "You will have the remarks." On the Monday following that Saturday I received them. I could

not detect one word different from what he spoke; and, if you will excuse me for saying it, I was credited with a fair memory.

The speech at the dedication of the Cambridge High School I know was word for word, with a single exception, the same that he spoke upon the platform, and it was a physical impossibility that he should have known what he was going to say before he entered the school house, for the speech was founded on what was said to him after he entered the school house.

I say this because I wish to improve the opportunity by remonstrating against the miserable notion that he could not write anything without the greatest care, without the most diligent preparation.

In 1859 I was in the city of Washington and fell into the very agreeable company of Mr. George J. Abbott—I think I give the name correctly—who was one of the chief clerks in the State Department. Finding that I was acquainted with Mr. Everett, he gave me a very interesting account of his history at the State Department. He said that he regarded Mr. Everett as the ablest man who had been in that department during the several administrations with which he had been connected, and then spoke of that remarkable State paper on the tripartite convention which was very modestly

proposed by France and England in regard to Cuba. The modest proposition was that the United States should agree forever to secure that island to Spain. The question came to Mr. Everett from Mr. Webster, who had preceded him in that department. The answer has settled that question forever. It was a very remarkable State paper, no one in our diplomatic history more so.

Mr. Abbott said: "Mr. Everett came down to the department that morning with a large roll of manuscript in his hand, and said to me, 'Mr. Abbott, please copy this, keep it close, and have it ready for to-morrow's mail.' I called my swiftest copyist, gave him proper directions, and sent him to his desk, which he did not leave except for a brief luncheon until ten o'clock at night, though that paper was written the night before." He must have burned a good deal of midnight oil that night. I could relate incidents of this kind by the hour, and you may be perfectly sure, if you ever meet with this talk about midnight oil, that Mr. Everett did not burn any more of it than other men in his situation.

I wish also to say, lest I may seem to endeavor to contradict what has been so admirably said from the platform, that he did take pains, and the care with which he prepared himself for the marked passages of his orations do him no dis-

credit. When he gave his great eulogy on La Fayette in Faneuil Hall, he threw one of our public men almost into spasms of admiration. The close of that oration was not second to that of the Phi Beta Kappa, when La Fayette himself was present in person. At that time he was present only by his bust upon the platform. Now this gentleman went out to Cambridge full of enthusiasm in regard to the power of the orator. When he was told that Mr. Everett had been preparing himself for more than a week for that exercise, he was fool enough (you will excuse me for the remark) to go into ecstasies of rage and represent that he was a hypocrite and a humbug. Yet that same man would talk about Demosthenes declaiming on the sea shore, he would talk about Cicero, but Mr. Everett could not be allowed to spend time over his work. That same man would take some of the manuscript of Pope and show two, three, four, five and six corrections before reaching the form that he desired, and the same with Milton; but Mr. Everett was not to be allowed to do anything of that kind. Everyone who is acquainted with the history of literature knows very well the truth of what Daniel Webster said, that great work is only done by great effort, and he himself was the very last one to claim that great work could be done in an indifferent manner. (Applause.)

But what will these "midnight oil" gentlemen say when told that it was to his remarkable ability in extemporaneous discourse, and that, too, under very adverse circumstances that he was indebted for his nomination to Congress. Dr. J. T. K. Lothrop relates the following:

"In 1823, some of the eminent gentlemen at Cambridge, then resident professors, took up the thought, not without some quite substantial reasons, that the Fellows, as they are termed in the charter members of the Corporation, as we commonly designate them, should be chosen from among themselves, that the authoritative body controlling the college having primarily the charge of all its interests and the conduct of all its affairs should be composed of the working men on the spot who best understood its condition and its wants, and were most competent to carry it on successfully, rather than of gentlemen engaged in other occupations and living in Boston, Salem, or some more distant place. In 1824 they prepared a memorial to this effect, addressed to the Corporation who referred them to the Board of Overseers before which body a hearing asked for and granted was subsequently held. The late Andrews Norton, Dexter Professor of sacred literature, and Mr. Everett, were selected to represent the memorialists at this hearing. Mr. Norton read a very valuable paper, marked

by concise accuracy of statement and closeness of reasoning for which he was distinguished.

“Mr. Everett, without manuscript, with only a few brief memoranda such as a lawyer would use before a jury, addressed the Board in a speech occupying more than two hours. He was interrupted at times by gentlemen of the Board, adverse to the position of the memorialists, the accuracy, the pertinence or propriety of his statements questioned, and in one instance if not more the decision of the Chair (Lieut.-Governor Morton, presiding), that he was not in order, required him to change his line of argument and remark. Nothing, however, seemed to confuse or discompose him.

“The situation was novel and trying, yet he sustained himself with an admirable degree of self-possession, and conducted his case with great ability. I have always supposed that it was the exhibition of his powers on this occasion, the coolness and tact with which he conducted himself in an argument, and sometimes almost a debate, before a body of eminent men, some of whom were opposed to his position that first suggested his nomination to represent Middlesex, in Congress; and that his splendid and eloquent oration before the P.B.K., only helped to confirm his nomination and secure his election.”

ALDERMAN HALL. — There is no one present to-day who is better qualified to respond for the sturdy settlers who came over in the ship "Mary and John" than the pastor of the Pilgrim Church. I believe that the Pilgrim Church occupies the site, very nearly the same location, of the ancient First Church of Dorchester. I take pleasure in calling upon the Rev. Mr. Albright.

ADDRESS OF REV. W. H. ALBRIGHT.

It is not expedient, dear friends, and it would not be prudent for me at this very late hour to occupy more than two or three minutes in the word or two that I am glad to say in connection with this occasion. And first let me say this, that this commemoration service will itself be commemorated. I mean by this, that recognition, very large recognition of it, will be taken throughout this country, and not only in this country, but it will be noticed, too, in England, that here, at this point, near the birthplace of Edward Everett, this commemorative service has been held. I am very sure large attention will be called to it. We honor ourselves when we honor the memory of so distinguished and worthy a man.

Let me say just this also, that we who are the newer element in Dorchester, are coming to realize that it means something to live here in Dorchester. I think I am realizing that more and more every day; and I am only one of a

large number coming into this region within the last few years, not so well posted on its history as very many, having to look up perhaps what we know about it, but enjoying the advantages which it gives to us to live in a section of this Commonwealth and of this country so distinguished by the lives and labors of great men.

So I am glad that this service has been held, for the newer element in Dorchester. I think Mr. Smith spoke wise words when he said that this service will do good to the young who are here present. In those galleries filled with boys, some seed now dropped into a boy's mind, getting into his heart, may make of him a second Edward Everett. May it be so, and Dorchester perpetuate itself in that way!

I was delighted with the discriminating, earnest and eloquent address of Dr. DeNormandie. It was so admirable in its spirit; not fulsome, as is so often the case with addresses of that sort, but so wise and so earnest and so helpful to us all. We have all been greatly benefited.

Then if I should say a word for Old England, if England herself could speak through a fitting representative, what a word England would say to-day for this gentleman who had so distinguished a place there, and lived so much in the love of eminent Englishmen, especially in the admiration and love of that brilliant literary

man, Lord Macaulay ! What a friend he was to this man whose life and labors we are commemorating today !

Now, without detaining you, I just wish to express this closing thought,—that we may have more occasions of this sort. There are memories to be cherished, there are lessons to be learned, there are helpful things to be said of this region in which we live, that has such a history known to all the world. We have come into this large inheritance, we are later comers, and we are to conserve what has come to us; not only to conserve it, not only to hold it; not only to inherit it, but to perpetuate it, to be worthy of it, to transmit it to those who are coming after us to show that we cherish these principles which underlie our national liberty, for which these men gave so much, stood so well, and have come into history with honor because of their labors and services. I hope occasions of this kind will be more frequent here in our midst, for our good not only, but for the benefit of the generation that will follow us. (Applause.)

ALDERMAN HALL. — There is present this afternoon a member of the Everett family, one of the grandsons of Edward Everett, and a member of the Boston Common Council. He is well known at City Hall, and is es-

teemed, and I might say beloved, by all of his associates and those who have connection with the city government. He is here as chairman of the committee on the part of the Common Council. I take pleasure in having the honor of presenting to you Mr. Sidney B. Everett.

ADDRESS OF SIDNEY B. EVERETT.

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the Dorchester Historical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen:—
In the dual capacity in which I appear before you today, both as representing the Boston City Government, (I believe the first member of my family that has ever been elected to an office in the Boston City Government,) and also as the grandson of Edward Everett, the able oration about whom you have just heard, it gives me great pleasure, although not altogether entire satisfaction, as I had hoped that the duty would be done more ably by my uncle, Dr. Everett, — but it nevertheless gives me great pleasure to thank you today for the touching and appreciative tribute to my grandsire that I have witnessed. In this great republic a man has to stand or fall more or less by himself. Some are placed in the world with more material advantages and more backing, financially and otherwise, than others; but, as a general thing, it must be taken as an axiom that we are here as individuals, and that one man should stand alone

as much as another without any conditions of birth affecting his career. Nevertheless, it cannot be altogether out of place for a citizen to take some pride in his birth and ancestry. I do not say that it should necessarily affect the verdict of his fellow citizens when he appeals to them, but it certainly should serve as an incentive to do well by his fellow citizens and to properly regulate his public and private conduct in life.

I cannot say too much, both on my own part, and, I am sure, on the part of the Everett family, of thanks and gratitude for the wonderfully touching and feeling oration of Dr. DeNormandie. It was never my pleasure to know my grandfather. I was born three years after he died. His doings, therefore, are but history to me. But as one who is tolerably well versed in family tradition, I feel sure this afternoon, that he has touched the spirit of my grandfather's life and objects as well and as completely as is possible to be done. A eulogy should not be too fulsome, but at the same time should do justice to the dead and to the living; and our family will, I am sure, always esteem, as one of the most cherished possessions among our archives, a copy of Dr. DeNormandie's oration as delivered today.

It would not be fitting for me to make any speech on this occasion. My duty merely is to

thank you, first on behalf of the city of Boston, and secondly on behalf of my family, for your attention and tribute this day. I most heartily thank the Dorchester Historical Society for the trouble they have taken today on account of this event, and I still more heartily thank Dr. De-Normandie for the oration he has delivered. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. (Applause.)

The following letters were then read by the Chairman:

LETTERS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 4, 1894.

MR. THOMAS MAIR:

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your invitation to attend the meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society on the centennial anniversary of Edward Everett, and I regret that another engagement, made several weeks ago, will prevent my attendance.

Of all the long list of Governors which the old Commonwealth has had one could hardly be selected more worthy of honor and regard than Governor Everett, and if present I should be only too glad to add my tribute of respect to his memory.

Yours very truly,
F. T. GREENHALGE.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, April 9, 1894.

MESS. THOMAS MAIR, W. S. STEVENS, W. B. MENDUM, AND
J. H. STARK, *Committee on Invitations:*

Gentlemen: I am in receipt of your very courteous invitation to attend the special meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society on the afternoon of April 11, in commemoration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Edward Everett.

I should have much pleasure and interest in being present,

but an important official engagement in connection with one of the State Institutions makes it impossible for me to do so.

During the century now closing, few of her citizens better deserve to be held in grateful remembrance by the Commonwealth than he. The many distinguished offices, to which he was called, were adorned by his character, learning, and eloquence. To his college, to his State, and to the Nation he was privileged to render illustrious service. When the country was plunged into the terrible conflict, which others sooner than he had seen to be inevitable, he gave lavishly of his splendid abilities to stimulate the sentiment of patriotism and unity which should again bind the nation into one.

For young and old alike it is well that the memory of such lives of public service well performed should be made familiar and vivid. They are the enduring glory of the Commonwealth.

I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,

ROGER WOLCOTT.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON, D.C., April 5, 1894.

My dear Sir: I regret very much that the state of the public business here will make it impossible for me to be present at the meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society on April 11th, held to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett.

Mr. Everett's career was so long and distinguished that I could not hope, were I able to be present, to contribute anything to the general knowledge and appreciation of his public life. But I should have been very glad to have the opportunity to say a few words in regard to Mr. Everett's earnest support, through many years, of financial and eco-

conomic policies which I believe to have been for the best interests of the United States, and also in regard to his loyalty to the cause of the Union when Civil War began in this country.

I am, very truly yours,

H. C. LODGE.

To THOMAS MAIR, Esq.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, April 13, 1894.

THOMAS MAIR, Esq., *Chairman*:

My dear Sir: In some way, owing to the great press of business here, your cordial invitation of the third instant was overlooked until this afternoon.

Although it would not have been possible for me to be present on the occasion referred to, I very much regret the circumstance which prevented a timely response to your letter.

Very respectfully yours,

W. Q. GRESHAM.

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1894.

My dear Sir: Your letter of March 30, but mailed at Boston, April 6, reached me via Groton this morning.

If I were in Massachusetts I should accept your invitation to attend the meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society to be held tomorrow in commemoration of the birth-day of Honorable Edward Everett.

Fit words will be spoken undoubtedly in recognition of his eminent services in the walks of literature, and of his distinction as an orator when Massachusetts could boast of a Webster, a Choate, a Phillips, with whom Mr. Everett held high rank.

Very truly,

GEO. S. BOUTWELL.

To MR. THOMAS MAIR, Boston.

BOSTON, April 7, 1894.

Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge receipt of the polite invitation to Mr. A. H. Rice to be present at the commemorative service of the Dorchester Historical Society on April 11th. It would undoubtedly give him great pleasure to accept the invitation if he could do so, but he is absent at Asheville, N.C., where he will remain until about May 1st.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. RICE.

THOMAS MAIR, ESQ., *Chairman, &c.*

BOSTON, April 5, 1894.

My dear Sir: I regret that an engagement in Everett prevents my acceptance of the kind invitation of the Dorchester Historical Society to attend its centennial of the birth of Edward Everett in Dorchester. I should be glad to express my appreciation of the character of that distinguished scholar and orator and of the patriotic and educational service he rendered the Commonwealth in every department of her civilization and progress.

With cordial thanks for your courtesy I am

Truly yours,

JOHN D. LONG.

THOMAS MAIR, ESQ., *Secretary.*

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., April 4, 1894.

MR. THOMAS MAIR:

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor communicating to me the invitation of the Dorchester Historical Society to attend the service in commemoration of the centennial birthday of Hon. Edward Everett on the 11th inst., and express

to you for the Society my hearty acknowledgments of the courtesy.

I regret to say that my engagements in court in this vicinity will prevent an acceptance, and therefore I must beg you to believe that my excuse is entirely sufficient under the circumstances.

Yours truly,

GEORGE D. ROBINSON.

BOSTON, April 7, 1894.

THOMAS MAIR, ESQ.:

Dear Sir: Your letter conveying the kind invitation of the Dorehester Historical Society to the commemoration of the centennial birthday of Hon. Edward Everett on the 11th inst., though dated March 30th, did not reach me until today. I regret that an engagement that will take me to New York on Tuesday, whence I shall not return until Friday or Saturday, prevents my acceptance. Cordially thanking you and the Society for the invitation, I am

Very truly yours,

J. Q. A. BRACKETT.

BOSTON, April 4, 1894.

My dear Mr. Mair: I thank you for the kind invitation of the Dorehester Historical Society to attend the commemorative services on April 11th, in honor of Edward Everett.

I regret extremely to find that an important engagement long since made makes it impossible for me to accept the invitation. Were I able to, I would gladly join with the Society in its fitting tribute to the memory of this distinguished son of Massachusetts, whom she will always remember as one of her greatest orators and statesmen.

Very truly yours,

WM. E. RUSSELL.

To THOMAS MAIR, ESQ.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, April 6, 1894.

Dear Sir: I regret that it will be impossible for me to be present at the Commemorative Services to be conducted by the Dorchester Historical Society on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 11.

My time on that day is all filled.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES W. ELIOT.

MR. THOMAS MAIR.

BOSTON, April 10, 1894.

MESS. THOMAS MAIR, W. S. STEVENS, W. B. MENDUM,
J. H. STARK:

Dear Sirs: I am obliged to be away from the city tomorrow and therefore cannot avail myself of your very kind invitation to be present at the special meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society which is to be held in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett. I regret extremely that I cannot by my presence bear testimony of my appreciation of a career of which all citizens of Massachusetts must be especially proud.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM F. WHARTON.

101 BRATTLE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, April 7, 1894.

Bishop Lawrence regrets that a previous engagement for April 11 will prevent him from accepting the invitation of the Dorchester Historical Society for the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett.

TO MR. THOMAS MAIR, Dorchester, Mass.

BOSTON, April 7, 1894.

TO MESSRS. MAIR, STEVENS, MENDUM AND STARK, *Committee of Dorchester Historical Society for "Everett Memorial."*

Gentlemen: I regret exceedingly that my limited strength will not permit me to accept the invitation that you have so graciously extended.

I am all the more sorry because my ancestors on my father's side, were all from Dorchester, my grandfather being born not very far from the Everett home; also I feel an interest in the celebration because I was elected an honorary member of the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society over thirty years ago and I myself for sixteen years was closely connected with Dorchester Churches, being pastor of the Harrison Square Church, N. Unitarian Church, and I entered Harvard University under Edward Everett as President.

One speaker too, who is to be the orator for the day is my warm personal friend.

You can therefore be well aware how sorry I am to be absent.

Respectfully and cordially,

CALEB DAVIS BRADLEE,

Pastor (pro tem.) of Christ's Church, Longwood.

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 8, 1894.

HON. W. H. WHITMORE:

My dear Sir: I have received the invitation to be present at the commemorative exercises to be held in Dorchester on the eleventh instant, being the Centennial Anniversary of my father's birth in that ancient town. Thanking you most kindly for this proposal, I find myself preëngaged to the city of Everett, which is in the Congressional District which I have the honor to represent, as my father did two generations ago.

His associations with Dorchester were of the most tender and vivid character. He was never tired of alluding to the scenes and incidents of his boyhood; and he deeply regretted the circumstances which compelled the sale of the house where he was born. On the 4th of July, 1855, he accepted an invitation, which indeed had been given for the previous year, of the citizens of Dorchester without distinction of party, to deliver an oration on the Anniversary of our National Independence. For this address, as I personally know, he prepared himself with exceptional care; revisiting all the spots which had been dear to his youth, refreshing his memory of every historical incident which could possibly throw light on the history of his beloved birthplace, and constructing the more emotional and rhetorical parts of his address with very exceptional care. The day was exceedingly propitious. The audience was crowded. It was an interesting circumstance that the Governor of the State — Hon. Henry J. Gardner — was a native of Dorchester, the son of one of her most honored citizens. The President of the Day, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, was very closely identified with your most cherished interests. My father was in some trepidation, for he had been much of an invalid in the preceding months, and had, indeed, appeared but rarely in public since he had resigned his seat in the United States Senate more than a year previously. Yet he spoke without weariness and with exceeding animation in a tent, always a difficult place of delivery, for two hours and twenty minutes, and gave a lively response to a toast at the dinner.

The oration was received with the greatest enthusiasm and was the first of a series delivered in the last ten years of his life, far superior in fire and richness to any which he had delivered for at least ten years before.

A very beautiful and appreciative account of some of the most striking passages in it was contributed by his much-

prized friend, the Hon. Rufus Choate, to the newspapers of the day.

Wishing you a most successful celebration, and regretting that I cannot join with all who seek to do honor to my beloved father,

I am very truly yours,
WILLIAM EVERETT.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
ROOMS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
MASON STREET, April 10, 1894.

MR. THOMAS MAIR, *Chairman, Committee on Invitations, of
Dorchester Historical Society:*

Dear Sir: Your kind invitation to the members of the School Committee to attend the services of your society, commemorating the centennial anniversary of the birth of Edward Everett, has been received, and will be presented to the Board at their meeting this evening.

I beg you to accept for myself and the School Committee our thanks for the courtesy and thoughtfulness of your invitation.

I am, Sir,
Yours very respectfully,
FRED. G. PETTIGROVE,
President Boston School Committee.

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1894.

My dear Mr. May: It is only too certain that I cannot be in Dorchester to-morrow at the celebration of my uncle's birthday.

I regret this extremely. I think the Society would have permitted me to say how pleasant were his memories of

Dorchester, and perhaps to give some reminiscences of the celebration when he delivered his Dorchester oration.

It is twenty-nine years since his death; nearly the space of time allowed for a generation of men.

I like to think that people know better than they did the day he died what was his full service to the people of *Massachusetts*. Naturally at that moment of struggle, men thought most of his service to the *Nation*.

It ought to be remembered that he stood, first, second and last for Public Education; and that of the best. Our whole present organization in that matter dates from his initiation, when he was Governor. He appointed Horace Mann the first Secretary of Education, and he dedicated the first normal school in the United States. In after years he gave the impulse and the personal service which made the Boston Public Library what it is; and I think it fair to say that it was his steadfast determination which has resulted in placing it at the very head of our Public Libraries.

I do not like to think that because he was one of the most accurate of scholars — among the first of the orators of his time — and because his successes in Diplomacy were what they were — men should forget that he was the determined *friend of the People* — resolved always that at the public charge they should all have the best education which the time could give.

With great respect dear Mr. May, and with great admiration:

I am

Truly yours,

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

BOSTON, April 6, 1894.

J. H. STARK, Esq. :

My dear Sir: I do not know to whom I am indebted for an invitation to attend the special meeting of the "Dorchester Historical Society," unless it is to yourself, as I have not the pleasure of personally knowing the other gentlemen of the committee.

I shall be most happy to be present if it is within my power.

Enclosed, I send you some lines written by my sister, the late Mrs. Margaret R. Peabody, which may interest you in connection with the occasion. Some time ago they were published in the "Beacon."

Again with thanks

I am very truly yours,

WM. C. CODMAN.

EDWARD EVERETT.

BORN IN DORCHESTER, MASS., APRIL 11, 1794.

While o'er the honored statesman's bier,
A mourning people Lowly bend,
And pay the tribute of a tear,
To him who was his country's friend;

A dearer title still is ours;
This ancient town would fondly claim
A mother's right, who blessings pours,
Upon her son's exalted name.

Oh, with what fresh and heart-felt joy,
The aged statesman would retraace
The scenes, where, as a merry boy,
He loved each youthful sport to grace.

To us his earliest love was given,
With us his youthful days were spent;
When all the choicest gifts of Heaven,
To bless his dawning years were lent.

We glory in his brilliant fame;
We glory in his culture rare;
We glory in that splendid name,
Whose praise is echoed everywhere,

But oh! the brightest gift of Heaven
Was his in life, and his in death;
We glory that to him was given
A Christian's pure and trusting faith.

Still linger in our hearts to-day,
The echoes of his dying voice;
When for our foes he bade us pray,
And in their welfare to rejoice.

As in the dew of early youth,
He loved the Gospel to proclaim;
So at the last, the words of Truth
Fell from his lips, in Jesus' name.

Oh Christian statesman! honored friend,
Still let thy mantle on us rest,
Till Heaven the gift of peace shall send
To us, so long and richly blest.

M. R. P.

The singing of the National Hymn, followed by the benediction by Rev. ARTHUR LITTLE, concluded the ceremonies.

A P P E N D I X .

THE SITE OF THE TWO OLDEST DORCHESTER MEETING-HOUSES.

(1631-1646).—(1646-1678).

THE search in regard to the property of Robert Oliver has led to the consideration of a more interesting question; namely, that of the location of the old Meeting House.

From the fact that the Legislature made an appropriation in 1894, (Resolves, chap. 100) for the erection of a monument contingent upon the determination of this location, the matter is a practical one.

It must be said that there were two meeting houses built in Dorchester, prior to the one which in 1678 was erected on Meeting House Hill. So little has been printed on this subject that it seems highly important to collect all the facts possible.

Winthrop's Journal (printed ed. i, 86) under date of 19 March 1631-2, states "Mr. Maverick, one of the ministers of Dorchester, in drying a little powder (which took fire by the heat of the fire-pan), fired a small barrel of two or three pounds, yet did no other harm but singed his clothes. *It was in the new meeting-house*, which was thatched, and the thatch only blacked a little." It must have been built in the year 1631.

The Annals written by James Blake (1688-1750) states that in 1633 they had at Dorchester "a Meeting-house for

the Public worship of God, but we have no Account when it was built." This shows that he wrote from inspection of the town records merely. Dorchester was settled early in June 1630, and services were held in the open air on June 6. The records of the Church do not give any precise dates prior to 1633, in fact not prior to 1636.

The result of our search has been a strong conviction that the First Meeting House (1631-1646) and the Second one, (1646-1678), were both placed on the common land of the town, on or near the oval plot bounded by Pond and Cottage streets. Probably the First building stood on low land at the east end of this oval, and the Second was placed on a little hill a few rods to the north west of that site. The west end of this oval is now Richardson Park.

We will first cite the Records of Dorchester, contained in the Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners of Boston.

"By the whole consent and vote of the Plantation made Mooneday, 8th of October, 1633.

Inprimis, it is ordered that for the generall good and well ordering of the aflayres of the Plantation their shall be every Mooneday before the Court, by eight of the Clocke in the morning, and presently upon the beating of the drum, a generall meeting of the Inhabitants of the Plantation *at the meeting-house*, there to settle (and sett downe) such orders as may tend to the generall good as aforesayd; and every man to be bound thereby without gaynesaying or resistance." (Dorchester Town Records, printed edit. p. 3.)

Nov. 3, 1634, (Rec. p. 8) it is ordered "that there shall be a post stairs made to the meeting house in the outside, and the loft to be laid and a window on the loft.

17 Dec. 1635, (Rec. p. 14) voted "that no man shall fell any trees within 20 goads * of the meeting house."

Oct. 2, 1636 (Records p. 19), "it is ordered that 4 Barrells of powder *in the meeting house* of the Countryes store shall be disposed of and sould for the bringing in new powder in the place."

January 16, 1636-7. (Records p. 21). An order provides for monthly meetings of the selectmen, and their acts being approved therein "they shall at the next Lecture Day after Lecture read them to the Company of free men who are to be warned at present to stay. And then all acts and conclusions as shall not be contradicted by the major part of the free men present, shall stand for orders and bind the Plantation and every inhabitant thereof."

It seems therefore that as early as 1631, as might be expected, a meeting house had been provided for religious services and also for town meetings of a secular nature. For example see the incidental mention in 1656 (Rec. p. 80) that the proprietors of the Neck land meet at the meeting house, and in 1658 (Rec. p. 91) that the Selectmen "warn all the Commoners to meet at the meeting house to give their votes whether they would have the commons divided or no." As will be shown, in 1646 a new house was erected with considerable pretensions to size and adornment; but judging from the well-preserved remains of the first meeting house at Salem, we may safely presume that the first one in Dorchester was a mere

* A goad as a measure of land in Dorsetshire, Eng., was 15 feet 1 inch. The term in this vicinity seems to be peculiar to our Dorchester records.

log-house. Its location cannot be exactly given, but the following citations will aid us.

Dec. 17, 1635 (Records, p. 14) "It is ordered that no man shall fell any trees within 20 goads of the meeting house."

June 27, 1636, (Rec. p. 17), ordered "that all that of Mr. Duncan's side shall have the ground to themselves before their doores, makeing and maynetayneing a sufficient highway so far as Mr. Stoughton's, reserving as much as may *set a meeting house* between Goodman Johns and where Goodman Rockewell now dwells."

January 16, 1636-7 (Rec. p. 22), ordered "that all that live Northwards from the meeting house shall [bring] their coves into *the open space before the meeteing house*, within an hower of [sunne] riseing, and their the Keepers to be ready to drive them away, and so to blow their horne along the Towne; and whosoever bring not their coves before Mr. Stoughton's house within an hower of sunnerising, the Keepers shall stay no longer, [but] drive away those that are redy to the Pasture."

This order was repeated 3 April, 1638 (Rec. p. 32) and Feb. 13, 1638-9 (Rec. p. 38).

Sept 10, 1637, (Rec. p. 25) It is agreed by a Generall vote of all the Plantation that there shal be a meeteing house built betweene Mr Brankers and Mr [Leeds?] it is agreed that a "100 £ shall be levied by a rate for the building of the house."

Oct 30, 1638 (Rec. p. 35) "At a Generall meeteing at Mr. Stoughton's" 10 selectmen were chosen &c.

Feb. 13, 1638-9 (Rec. p. 37) "It is ordered that Mr. Clarke shall have libertie to take in fower goads of land

next his pale *towards the meeteing howse*, which is neare the barne that was lately Mr. Trowbridgs, the breadth to bee as his pale now stands."

6. 11 mo. 1644 or Jan'y 1644-5 (Rec. p. 53), order confirmed against felling trees *about the meeting house*.

It seems very certain that in 1645 the matter of a new meeting house was urgent.

26, 12 mo. 1644, *i.e.* Feb. 26, 1644-5 (Rec. p. 54) "it is agreed at a generall meetinge of the Towne, for peace and love's sake that there shalbe a new meeting house built on Mr. Hawards land, in the most convenient place betwixt Mr. Stoughton's garden and his barne; and this agreement to stand firme except any considerable number of such as are absent from this meeting shall give any satisfactory reasons unto the 7 men, within 14 dayes, for any other alteration of the place."

14, 1 mo (*i.e.* March) 1645 (Rec. p. 57) "it is ordered that a rate of 250 £ shalbe made for the building of a new meeting howse, and the Raters chosen are Edward Briek, William Sumner, Thomas Wiswol, William Blake, Roger Clap."

"The overseers of the worke in building the meeting howse, who are to agree with the workmen, receive the rates and pay them, and agree with Mr Haward about the plot of land where the sayd meeting howse must bee sett:— Mr. Glover, Nathaniel Duncon, Mr. Atherton, Mr. Joanes, Deacon Wiswol, Deacon Clap, Mr. Haward."

From the scanty facts obtainable, it seems fair to conclude that the first Meeting house remained from 1631, until

1646, unchanged in site, and that the orders of 1636 and 1637 for a change came to nothing. The cattle-order of 1637 shows that the meeting-house had an open space before it, and certainly that it was near Mr. Stoughton's house. It is certain that the town's common land extended west from the Calf Pasture, crossing Green Lane now Pleasant street, and we know that Mr. Stoughton's land on Pleasant street reached from Savin Hill avenue to the way into the Calf Pasture. In the lack of positive evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that the meeting house was built on the town's land. As we shall fix the site of the second building (1646-1678) on part of this same common land, a few rods from the corner of Pleasant and Pond streets, "the parting of the ways to Calf Pasture and to Gov. Tailer's house," we may infer that the old tradition which says that the old meeting house stood at this corner, near the present Dorchester Athenæum building, refers to this original log-cabin. (See Blake's *Annals of Dorchester, Boston, 1846*, p. 78.)

The vote of 1645 to take Mr. Haward's land, "between Mr Stoughton's garden and his barn," does not seem to have gone into effect; at least there is no farther mention of a payment and no deed of it to the town. The land was doubtless on or near the corner of Pleasant street, since in 1647, (Rec. p. 79) the fences allotted are to Mr. Stoughton, John Wiswall, Mr. Howard, John Pears about the Gate &c.

In Dorchester Church Records (printed edition p. 17) Elder Topliff says of the early estates, "Mr. Howards — where John Jones lives, and his orchard sold to Mr. Stoughton."

Possibly the lot was too small to be worth payment,

especially if Mr. Haward was Robert Howard, the Reeorder of the town. The evidence is conclusive that the new meeting-house of 1646 was on common land, on or near the road to Dorchester Neck, (now Pond street,) and adjoining the land afterwards owned by Ebenezer Williams.

References to this second meeting house will be found in the Dorchester records, printed edition pp. 8, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 32, 35, 37, 38, 53, 54, 57, 60, 61, 63, 69, 71, 72, 81, 82, 90, 91, 94, 97, 107, 109, 111, 112, 116, 121, 123, 126, 135, 137, 146, 153, 154, 157, 159, 161, 166, 167, 168, 169, 180, 183, 186, 187, 190, 192, 197, 203, 210, 220, 228, 229, 233, 281, 301, 306, 307, 308, 310, 311, 319.

From these items we learn that it had ground-sills, painting, clap-boards, and glass about the windows. At the beginning there was one gallery, probably two as mention is made of the west gallery. In 1646 a rate was laid "for making the walls warm and decent, within and without." In 1657, there was a door put to Mistress Stoughton's and Mistress Mather's seat. Repairs were constantly made, and about 1660 goodman Mead was paid £3 annually for "the bell ringing and cleansing the meeting-house." In 1665, Increase Atherton, Thomas Bird, jr., and Samuel Proctor got into trouble by setting up a new gallery in the meeting house, without leave from the town; but escaped with an humble apology, and an agreement not to give up or sell their seats to any one but those approved by the Elders. In 1666, it was voted that the Teaching and Ruling Elders should have power to seat people in the meeting house. In

1667 it was voted that the west gallery be brought into such form that all the boys may be there seated, "and so ordered that they may be prevented from prophaning the Lord's Day." In 1668, (Mead being dead), Nicholas Bolton "did agree to tend the meeting house, to keep it in decent order and to ring the bell," for £3 annually.

Finally, March 28, 1670, the town took up the matter of a new meeting house and site, and June 27, 1670 it was voted that "the meeting house should be removed from the place where it now stands, to the Rocky-hill by the Schole house, and be set up in the same forme that now it is." (Rec. p. 168.) The matter moved slowly, as on 4 December 1671 (Rec. p. 180) "It was voted to repair the meeting house "for the present occasion, that we may comfortably come together for the worship of God"; Feb. 26, 1671-2, a committee was appointed "to pitch upon a place on the Rocky hill for the meeting house to stand upon"; and March 1, 1672-3, they reported they had chosen a site there near the Lime-Kiln. At a meeting of the Selectmen Feb. 9, 1673-4, it was reported that the meeting-house bell was broken and dangerous, and it was ordered that the bell be taken down and sent to England and a new one obtained there or elsewhere. Dec. 20, 1675 repairs were made on the old house, and 10 Sept. 1677 it was voted "to repair the meeting house for this winter by stopping some holes and putting up some seats that are fallen, and the stairs that go up to the pulpit." (Rec. p. 220.)

By the records of the Dorchester Church (printed ed. p. 189) it seems "Nathaniel, son of Thomas Moadesly was bapt Nov. 10, 1678 being the last baptized in the old Meeting house, and that Remember Preston and Susanna Breck were

baptized Nov. 17, 1678, being the first day of meeting in the new Meeting house."

Finally June 20, 1679 (Rec. p. 228) it was voted to sell the old meeting house* and the trees that grow there. Isaac Royall bought the house for £10, and some eight trees brought from 3 @ 5 shillings each. On March 14, 1678-9, the Elder published the list for the seating of persons in the meeting house.

We will now consider the question of the site of this Second Meeting House, (1652-1679), giving our authorities therefor.

The examination of many documents, which will be hereinafter cited, leads us to certain very definite conclusions — these are principally as follows: first, that from a very early date a highway extended from the residence of Lieutenant-Governor Tailer in a northerly direction towards Dorchester neck. The Tailer House is fully located upon a plan now in possession of the City of Boston. It was on the north-easterly corner of Savin Hill avenue and Pleasant street. Pleasant street, (or Green lane, as it was earlier known,)

* We find on the Town Records (original, vol. 2, p. 101) the following agreement about the Third Meeting House:

"The 11 of the 11 mo. 1674. It is agreed between the Selectmen of Dorchester and the rest of the Committee of the one part, and Isack Ryall of the same Dorehes-ter, that he the said Isack Ryall shall build a meeting hous containing forty five foote in bredth and fifty foote in lenth and [twelve ? twenty word written over] betweene Joynts, with a gable on both sides with Window sutable, and to doe all the Carpentry worke, both seats and all gallerys and floures, and to begin upon the work about the latter end of next summer and then to follow it untill it be finished: and the said Isack is to Keepe an exact account of the dayes work that is bestowed upon it and to [*re-ceive* ?] one third part in money unless he can afford to take less. Witness our hands the day above saed — The marke of Isack x Ryall."

extended northerly to a point quite near the present joining of Cottage and Pond streets, where the Dorchester Athenæum stands. At or near this point the main road turned north-westerly, and was carried over a small hill, and continued thus for several hundred feet (the present Pond street). It then turned sharply north or north-easterly and followed the line substantially of the present Boston street, which led to the neck, now South Boston. At the point already described, where Pleasant street meets the road over the hill, there was a short road, reaching north-easterly, leading to the marshy land called the Calf Pasture. To the south of the road, and lying under the hill, was a marshy pond of variable extent, which went by the name of [Pool's and?] Mawdsley's pond at different periods. South of this again was the road known as the Road to Boston, which is now represented by Cottage street. The present street lines preserve the general idea of the state of affairs in the last century, giving Pond street on the north, and Cottage street on the south of an enclosed oval. But these roads have shown a constant tendency to approach each other and to become symmetrical, so that they are doubtless many rods away from the original cart-track which we are now trying to locate.

We expect to prove that the site of the second Meeting House, as it stood from 1646 to 1678, was on the top of this little hill, at a point very near the line where two important estates joined. To the south of it, including the pond, marsh, and upland, was a tract of common land reaching probably as far as Stoughton street and to its intersection with Boston street. This tract undoubtedly included the Training-field and was the subject of repeated grants by the town for the accommodation of the private owners abutting

thereon. In fact, all general considerations confirm this view. Tradition has always located the first Meeting House somewhere within this tract, though without a definite site. As late as 1732 the exact site of the second was well known and was mentioned in town records and deeds. At the southerly end of the tract was the burying-ground; at the north-east corner was the home of Richard Mather, the minister who officiated in this particular meeting-house.

To proceed to particulars, Comfort Foster, about 1730, was the owner of an estate which we can locate with the utmost precision. Not only can we trace the title, as we shall proceed to do, from Foster to Jacob Royall, from Jacob Royall to Isaac Royall, and from Isaac Royall to Robert Oliver, but we also have a contemporary statement of a committee of the town, April 10, 1741, in the following words: "To exchange a small piece of the Town's Common Land by Mr Robert Oliver's House he purchased of Comfort Foster, for so much of Mr Oliver's land by the Burying place, for the enlargement thereof: Have this day according to our instructions exchanged with the said Mr Robert Oliver Half an acre & twenty five rods of the Common Land before the house [which] was the said Comfort Foster's, which is now taken down & a new one about to be erected on or near the same place by the said Robert Oliver."

This lot of Foster's, consisting of about thirty acres, in all the deeds was described as bounded westerly or south-westerly on the road leading to Dorchester neck, that is to say, on the present Boston street. Northerly on the land of Jonas Humphrey, easterly on Ebenezer Williams' land, and

where the southerly bound is mentioned it is said to be on common land. Mr. Comfort Foster petitioned ineffectually, May 21, 1733, for the little strip of land in front of his house between it and "the way upon Fire-stone hill, so called."

At a meeting of the town, Nov. 17, 1740 (see Town Records, p. 427) Mr. Robert Oliver made a similar application and was successful. The town by deeds recorded (in Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 61, p. 212, dated April 10, 1741) gave him, in exchange for other land, a piece of common land bounded westerly by the road to Dorehester neck twenty-eight feet, northerly by land of said Oliver, easterly by common land, southerly partly by the highway leading over Firestone hill and partly by the remaining common land. At this time, as will hereafter be shown, the road over the hill, now Pond street, evidently ran through what was common land, and did not directly abut on Comfort Foster's house lot, nor on the land of his easterly neighbor, Ebenezer Williams.

We will now proceed to the Williams lot. It appears by Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 29, p. 127, that on March 5, 1694, Ebenezer Williams bought of Samuel Mather and Hannah his wife one-half of the homestead of late Rev. Richard Mather; and that on the 23d of July, 1694 (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 16, p. 395), he bought of Atherton Mather, son of Timothy and grandson of Richard, the other half of this lot.

The description of this homestead is as follows: "Consisting of a Dwelling house and barn, yard, garden and orchard, upland, arable land, Salt meadow, and a pareel of swamp, containing in the whole by estimation Eighteen acres more or less, bounded Eastward upon the land of

William Pond dec'd, Westward upon the land of the late Capt. Hopestill Foster dec'd, Southward upon a highway leading to Calfs pasture meadow so called, Northward upon the great creek lying near the sea, or however otherwise."

Ebenezer Williams desired to straighten his lines, at the town-meeting, May 21, 1733 (see Town Records, p. 347; also the original paper on file). He applied for a small piece lying by his house, between his land and that of Comfort Foster on the north, and southerly on the way over Firestone hill. This was refused, very possibly because that it was between Foster's land and the road, since at the same meeting they refused to let Foster have the strip which was directly in front of his house; but at this same meeting Ebenezer and Nicholas Williams petitioned the town to "sell them about ten or twelve rods of common land joining to their land *near where the old meeting-house stood*" (Town Records, p. 348).

The town complied so far as to appoint a committee to sell the land to the highest bidder, and accordingly, for thirty-five shillings, they sold to Ebenezer Williams, Jan. 7, 1733 (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 58, p. 167), the desired strip. This is described at follows: "Fourteen rods more or less, bounded: westerly by the Highway leading *for* Dorchester neck to Lieut. Gov^r. Tailers, the said way to be left two rods wide, Easterly by the land of said Ebenezer Williams, Northerly by common land or however otherwise."

We have thus located the site of the Old Meeting-House (the second one) as being near the little strip of common

land which Williams bought of the town, and which was clearly to the northward of the travelled road over the hill. If our view be correct, this strip of land would be between the home of the Rev. Richard Mather and his meeting-house, which would stand, in that case, in true colonial fashion, on the top of a moderate eminence overlooking the pond to the southward. In confirmation of this we will cite the earlier purchase by Ebenezer Williams from William Stoughton, Oct. 17, 1676. (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 12, p. 63.) It is described as follows:

“In consideration of the sums of four score pounds of current money confirm to Ebenezer Williams a certain piece or parcel of land containing two Acres more or less — being now an Orchard with the dwelling house upon it lying — in Dorchester being part of the home Lot which was formerly the lot of Mr Henry Withington, and after the lot of his son John Withington, being bounded South Easterly with the land of Nicholas Boulton; South Westerly with the lands of the afores'd. William Stoughton; North west with the *highway leading from the town to the meeting house*; North Easterly with the way leading to the Calves pasture: together with a barne and garden plot and piece of meadow as it is now fenced in, lying on the North Easterly side of the afores'd way, as it is all now fenced in both the Orchard and barn.”

It appears then that this road from the point where it turns to the westward from Pleasant street was then called “the highway leading from the town to the meeting house.” It is a confirmation of this, that when Robert Oliver bought two small lots, in 1738, of Thomas Pymmer and Jonathan Kelton, respectively, these lands were described as bounded

north-easterly by the way leading to Meeting-House Hill; and it is beyond question that these lands were in the oval space so often referred to by us.

We claim, therefore, to have established, with as great precision as the subject will permit, that two successive Dorchester Meeting-Houses stood on the piece of common land which has been so greatly altered in two centuries by the hand of man that the exact spot covered by it no longer exists; yet a portion of that same common land, by the generosity of the late John Richardson, is again common land, belonging to the city of Boston: and surely a commemorative monument may be with perfect propriety erected a few rods to the westward.

A perfectly parallel case is that of the famous monument on Beacon hill; that hill has been lowered some sixty feet, the site is utterly gone, but no one disputes the propriety of marking a corresponding site in the State House grounds.

We will now try and trace some of the lots which were evidently taken out of the common land to the south of the estates of the Fosters and Williamses. We have seen that in 1741 the town sold to Robert Oliver the part of the common land directly in front of his house, at the corner of Boston street.

On July 2, 1745 (see Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 72, p. 243), the town exchanged with Robert Oliver for another lot of his situated elsewhere, a very small piece of common land; namely, one quarter of an acre and two rods, bounded northerly by the way over Firestone hill, southerly by

the way from Boston, by the house of Mr. Jonas Clarke; westerly by the road leading to Dorchester neck, and easterly by the land of Oliver. This would seem to be the westerly apex of the oval between Pond and Cottage streets.

How did Oliver acquire the land to the eastward of this quarter acre? It appears that on March 10, 1738-9 (see Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 57, p. 197), Jonathan Kelton sold to Robert Oliver one acre, bounded north-west with the town land; north-east with the highway leading to Meeting-House hill, south-west with the highway, and south-east with the land formerly Thomas Pymer's, then Robert Oliver's. It also appears that four months previously; namely, Nov. 7, 1738 (see Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 57, p. 63), Thomas Pymer had sold to Robert Oliver a white house and four acres of land, bounded north-west with the lands of Jonathan Kelton, north-east with the highway leading to Meeting-House hill, south-west with the lands of James Allen, Jonas Clarke, and Robert Oliver. It is evident that this four-acre lot did not reach through to the southerly road, now Cottage street, as the other lots did, and probably its greatest dimension was north and west.

Pymer's lot is easily traced back as common land, because on the 18th of June, 1733 (see Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 57, p. 88), Pymer bought of Samuel Royall a lot recently bought by him of the town of Dorchester, containing one and a half acres and twenty-four rods, bounded north-easterly by Jonathan Kelton's orchard; north-east by the highway from Dorchester neck to the house of Governor Tailer in part; and partly by the pond called Mawdsley's pond, southerly by the way leading from the house of Samuel Royall to the house of John Capen.

The deed of the town as recorded (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 47, p. 223), agrees with this substantially, and at the same time the town sold two and one-half acres of common land on the westerly side of Boston street reaching to the corner of Cottage street. Moreover, on May 21, 1733, Samuel Royal petitioned the town for leave to close up a way leading from his house to John Capen's, and this was refused; but on March 1, 1733-4, a year later, Thomas Pimer renewed the application. He stated that he had bought the piece of land near Mawdsley's pond recently sold by the town to Samuel Royall; accordingly, we find the deed of the town (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 47, p. 223), dated May 28, 1733, which says that the piece contains one and one-half acres and twenty-four rods, bounded north-west by orchard of Jonathan Kelton, north-east partly by the way leading from the house of Comfort Foster to the house of the late Governor Tailer, and partly by Mawdsley's pond; south-west by the way leading from the house of Samuel Royall to the house of said Lieutenant-Governor Tailer.

Now, it seems from this that wherever Royall's house stood, the road was primarily running towards Pleasant street, and was not then known as the road to Boston.

Pimer's petition goes on to say that there was an old way over the Common, between this land and that of John Capen, Jr. But the said way was inconvenient, being the side of a hill, and not of general use or benefit to the town or neighborhood adjacent; also, that there was another good way over Firestone hill, so called, a few rods distant. The location of John Capen's house has never been settled, although David Clapp, in his pamphlet on Jones' hill, p. 63, says that he believes it was on the corner of Pleasant and Cottage

streets. Inasmuch as the present oval between Pond and Cottage streets contains less than three acres, it would seem that these purchases of land made by Oliver must have extended quite a distance south of the present Cottage street, and that the road to Boston, from Mr. Clark's house, was probably shifted also to the southward.

In 1749 Robert Oliver sold to Hugh McDaniel two acres and nine rods, bounded north-east and east by the highway over Firestone hill; south-east by the parting of two roads, one leading to Calves Pasture, the other to Stoughton House; south-west by the road leading towards Boston, and north-west by the land which he lately purchased of the town of Dorehester. Hugh McDaniel sells it to John Jeffries, by the same description, March 31, 1760 (see Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 94, p. 66). Now, as we find only two deeds from the town to Oliver it would seem as if his purchases reached continuously the whole length of the road over Firestone hill from Boston street to Pleasant street; and that the southerly road leading from Pleasant street at this point leading towards Boston, otherwise described as the road leading by Mr. Clark's home, was distinct from the private way between Samuel Royall's house and that of John Capen, Jr. It would be useless, until some contemporaneous map or place shall be discovered, to try to give the exact bounds of these various estates.

We know that Robert Oliver bought a piece of land situated on the north and westerly side of the burying-place; we also know that he owned some land on the westerly side of Boston street, near the corner of Cottage street, and the

deeds show that at one time the common land extended to the west of Boston street. Our interest is, of course, confined to the demonstration of our original proposition, that the common land extended from the house of the Rev. Richard Mather southerly in the direction of Stoughton street. Its easterly boundary was the Calf Pasture, and the line of demarkation must have been always indefinite; at that edge evidently the Training Field was located, and it is safe to say that it must have been several acres in extent. In this appendix we give abstracts of such deeds as bear on this point. For example, we will especially cite the deed of the town to Matthew Pimer, dated Nov. 14, 1726, granted "half an acre and ten rods, a part of the land commonly called the 'Old Training Field,' bounded westerly by a way, northerly by land of said Matthew Pimer, Easterly and Southerly by common land, and is more particularly and fully described in a plate annexed hereunto — a Duplicate whereof is lodged with the Town Clerk of Dorchester."

Aaron Bird petitions the Town of Dorchester under date of July 11, 1726, to sell him about half an acre of common land being a part of the land called the "Old Training Field," bounded northwesterly by common land, and on all other sides by land of the petitioner.

The committee appointed by the town made a favorable report to the Town at a meeting held on August 16, 1726, on the petitions of Aaron Bird and Matthew Pimer.

A remonstrance against the towns disposing of any part of the "Old Training Field" as petitioned for by Matthew Pimer and Aaron Bird, signed by Standfast Foster and others :

That "this piece hath been often desired but as often denied the land said Pimer petitions for there is six men must have a highway to their land through it.

"We hope the Town wont first sell the land and then buy a way through it. But in the next place most damage will acruce to the town in seling away such a noble bed of clay, the value whereof can't be exprest.

"Wherefore, we the Subscribers, Desire the town of Dorchester to proceed no further in that matter but let the said land lie in common for the good of the Town as our forefathers Left it for our good and for the good of our children."

We therefore rest our case in regard to these sites, referring however to the full test of the various deeds, petitions and orders of the town of Dorchester, hereto annexed.



THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE.

IN regard to the site of the first School House, the evidence is not so clear. In the History of Dorchester (Boston, 1859), prepared by the principal local antiquaries, the facts are plainly set forth (pp. 419-479). May 20, 1639, the town appropriated £20 annually for the "mayntenance of a schoole in Dorchester," to be paid to the school-master "to teach English, Latin and other tongues, and also writing." The selectmen and elders were to decide "whether maydens shalbe taught with the boyes or not." (Rec. p. 39.) Again March 1, 1645 (Rec. p. 55) it was ordered that there be three wardens or overseers, whose duty in part was to "see that the Schoole howse bee kept in good and sufficient repayre," that "twelve sufficient cart or wayne loads of wood" be brought to the Schoolhouse annually, and that the hours of school from March 1 to October 1, be from 7 to 11 and from 1 to 5, the rest of the year, one hour later in the morning and one hour less at night.

The master was to "receive and instruct such as shalbe sent and committed to him for that end, whether their parents bee poore or rich, not refusing any who have right and interest in the school." He was to instruct them "in humane learning and good literature, and likewise in point of good manners and dutiful behaviour to all," especially their superiors when they meet them. Also every Friday he was to catechize his scholars.

Nov. 3, 1655, it was provided that before entering the scholars should be "all redie to knowe there Leters and to spell some what."—(Rec. p. 73). A man was to provide fire in the house "and in case of palpable neglect and matter of complaint and not reformed, it shall not bind the Master to endanger his health."

Feb. 9, 1656-7, (Rec. 86) voted that "Thomas Wiswall was here desired in behalf of the school that a flower be laid over head in the school house, and a studdy made in it for the use of the schoolmaster, provided [he be given?] 5s. toward it and timber in his lott for juice." [joists?]

Sept. 12, 1659, (Rec. p. 97) "Mr Batten was entreated and ordered by the Selectmen, that he would see a speedy repaire of the scoole house."

Sept. 14, 1674, (Rec. p. 200), "Richard Hale was desired and empowered to see that the Scholehous be repaired Either by clobording or shingleing the roofe."

January 2, 1675-6, (Rec. p. 210) "the Select men appointed Richard Withington and Daniel Preston to see that the Scholehous be fitted up with seats and a lock and key for the doare."

March 10, 1679-80 (Rec. p. 248) "voted that the Scholehous shall be repaired wher it now stands."

Finally May 8, 1694 (Rec. vol. 2 p. 145 orig.) John Trescott agreed with the selectmen to build a new school-house 20 feet long, 19 feet wide, with a ground floor and a chamber floor, a pair of stairs and a chimney. It was also to be clap-boarded inside and out, filled in between the studs, and fitly covered with boards and shingles. Trescott was to have the glass, lock and key, hooks and hinges of the old school house, and to be paid £22 current money of New England at or before the first day of January 1694-5.

This new school house was erected on the hill near the meeting-house, (Hist. p. 445) May 13, 1719 (Rec. vol. 2, p. 195) a rate was voted of £20 for a writing and reading school in the South Precinct.

In 1798 (Hist. p. 453) the new brick-school house near the meeting house was built, costing \$1287.

Edward Everett in his Oration July 4, 1855, made the following statement. "Some fifty six or seven years have passed since, as a school-boy, I climbed — summer and winter, — what then seemed to me the steep acclivity of Meeting House Hill. The old School house, (it was then the new School-house, *but I recollect that which preceded it*) has disappeared."

As to the site of the first school-house (1645-1694) the History says "the house was probably located near the corner of Pleasant and Cottage streets." This is the voice of tradition, but it agrees with the known facts. As no mention was made of land purchased for a site, it stood on the town's common land. The main settlement, the heart of the town, was this field so often referred to by us, with the two successive churches, the minister's house, the pound, the training-field, and the grave-yard, all located within its bounds.

The tradition in regard to the first meeting-house has been verified. It is a significant fact that when the meeting house was moved to a new site, the school house soon followed. Who can doubt that they were near neighbors from the beginning?

PETITIONS AND ORDERS OF THE TOWN OF
DORCHESTER.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester in General Town
Meeting assembled, on July 11. 1726

The Petition of Aaron Bird of said Town of Dorchester, Hus-
bandman, Humbly
Sheweth,

That Whereas there is a Piece of Common Land belonging to
said Town of Dorchester, adjoyning to the Land of your Peti-
tioner, containing about half an aere, Butted & Bounded north-
westerly by Common Land, & on all other sides by Land of your
Petitioner, it being part of the Land called the old Training-field;
Which would be benefieial to your Petitioner if he could buy the
same; & Especially in Regard of Streightning his fence, for your
Petitioner should make less fence if he had said piece of Common
Land than now he doth.

He Therefore Prays that the Town would sell him said Piece of
Common Land, and that they would Choose a Committee to agree
with & make a Lawfull Deed of Sale to your Petitioner ac-
cordingly.

and your Petitioner shall ever pray &c.

AARON BIRD.

To the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorehes-
ter, in the County of Suffolk, in General Town Meeting
assembled, on the 11th Day of July 1726.

The Petition of Matthew Pimer of Dorchester aforesaid Husban-
man, Humbly
Sheweth,

That Whereas there is a Piece of Common Land adjoyning to

the Land of your Petitioner, it being part of the Land Commonly called the Old Training Field, (Butted & Bounded South westerly by the Land of Ebenezer Maudsley Jun^r. Northwesterly by the Land of your Petitioner & North-Easterly and South Easterly by Common Land) Containing about one half acre, which piece of Land would be beneficial to your Petitioner in Case he could Purchase the Same, & as he conceives no Damage to the Town to Sell it.

He therefore Prays That the Town would Sell him the said Piece of Common Land, and that they would choose a Committee to agree with him, & to make a Legal Deed of Sale thereof accordingly.

And your Petitioner as in Duty Bound shall ever pray &c.

MATTHEW PIMAR.

Where as there is a request made by Mathew Pimer & Aaron Bird to the Town of Dorchester To have each of them a peice of land Lying in Dorchester in a place caled the old Trainingfield or Calf pasture Gentlemen of thee Town this peice of Land hath been often Desired but as often denied There hath bin a Considerable number of men that have signd a paper signifying to the town there dislike of parting with that which had bin so valuable to the Town besides the town have not seen meet to grant any such request (the Aforesaid paper was Lately read in the Town meeting but now it cant be found) They town have so far Acted on the late petition of these men as to choose a Comitty to see whether it were proper to grant there request and to make report the next town meeting. what there opinions are is not yet none but it cant be expected thee gentlemen can tell how greatly the town will be damnified by desposing of so valuable a Treasure as those that live nearer: In the first place the great damage it will be to perticular men as to Wayes to ther Land the land the Said pimer petitions for there is Six men must have a highway to there land through it.

We hope the Town wont first Sell the land and then buy a way through it. But in the next place most damage will aerve to the town in Seling a way Such a noble bed of Clay the value where of cant be exprest. Yet so far we can tell it hath bin of great value & so remains and Likely to be of far greater. there is no place in the whole feild so easie to get Clay as the places petitiond for. Wherefore We the Subscribers Desire the town of Dorehester to proceed no farther in that Matter but let the said land lie in commen for the good of the Town as our forefathers Left it for our good and for the good of our children.

Standfast Foster	Obadiah swift
Ebenezer Clap	Preserved Capen
Ebenezer holmes	Comfort Foster
Daniel Preston	francis Price
Enoch Wiswell	James Swift
Joseph Hall	John Blake
Abiel Bird	Josiah Blake
Ebenezer Williams	Henry bird
Charles Davenport	the mark of X Nicholas Williams
Tho ^r Bird	Josiah Blackman.
Joseph Blake jun	
Sam ^l Clap	
Ebenezer Wiswall	
John Andrews	
Samuel Capen	
Benjamin Cheny.	

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorechester, within the County of Suffolk, in General Town Meeting assembled, on the Fifth Day of March, Anno Domini 1732.

The Petition of Samuel Royal of Dorechester aforesaid, Merchanth, Sheweth,

That there are two small pieces of Common Land belonging to the said Town of Dorchester, that would accommodate your Petitioner if he could Purchase them of the Town, they lying near your Petitioners House: One of them Containing about an acre, and is Bounded North-Westerly by Jonathan Kilton's Orehard South Westerly by the Highway leading from your Petitioners House to the House of Thomas Pimer, North-Easterly by the Highway that leads from the House of Comfort Foster to the aforesaid Thomas Pimer's in part, and partly by Mawdsley's Pond (so called) The other Piece Containing about Two Acres, and is a Triangular Piece, Bounded Northerly by the Way leading from the House of Mr Ebenezer Clap towards Roxbury, South Easterly by the Way leading from said Mr Claps towards Dorchester meeting-house, and Westerly by the Land of Mr Jonathan Clap: Both of which Pieces of Land as they now lye uneultivated yields little or no profit to the Town in general, which if they were sold and the Interest of the Money Improved towards the defraying of the Towns necessary Charges, would do something Considerable in lessening the yearly Taxes: which the Town by several such sales of late cannot but Experience the benefit of.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays, that the Town would sell him the said Pieces of Common Land (as they have done the like to divers others) for such reasonable Price as shall be agreed upon; and that they will choose and Impower a Committee to Sell the said Pieces of Common Land unto your Petitioner, (or either of them or so much of them as the said Committee and your Petitioner can agree upon) and to make and execute a good and lawful Deed or Deeds of Conveyance of the same.

And your Petitioner shall ever Pray &c

SAM^L ROYALL

To the Freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester, in
General Town Meeting Assembled on the 21st Day of May
Anno Domini 1733.

The Petition of Samuel Royal of Dorchester aforesaid Merchant,
Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has Land on both sides of the Way leading from his House to John Capen's, which Way is of little or no use to the Town or any of the Inhabitants thereof, nor Travellers but would be of benefit to your Petitioner if the Town would allow your Petitioner to Close up the said Way, he giving the Town a valuable Consideration, therefor.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays that the Town would allow him to Close up the said Way; for a Valuable Consideration, so far as the Town or a committee by them appointed shall direct.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray,

SAM^L ROYALL

To the Freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester, in
General Town Meeting assembled, on the 21st day of May,
Anno Domini 1733.

The Petition of Comfort Foster of Dorchester aforesaid, yeoman,
Humbly
Sheweth,

That there is a Small piece of Common Land lying between your Petitioners Land near the House where he now lives, and the Way upon Fire-Stone Hill (so called) that belongeth to the Town, and is of no benefit to the Town in General as it now lyeth, but would be profitable to your Petitioner if he could purchase the same, and more beneficial to the Town also.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays that the Town would sell him said Small Piece of Common Land, & Appoint a Committee & Impower them to Sell the Same to him & to Execute a good & lawful Deed of the Same if they can agree.

And your Petitioner shall ever Pray &c.

COMFORT FOSTER.

To the Freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester in
Town Meeting assembled on the 21st Day of May anno 1733.

The Petition of Ebenezer and Nicholas Williams both of Dor-
chester aforesaid,
Sheweth,

That there is a very small Piece of Common Land Joyning to
your Petitioners Land near where the old meeting-house stood,
which would accommodate your Petitioners by Streightening their
fence, if the Town would sell the same.

Your Petitioners therefore Pray the Town to sell to them or
either of them the said Piece of Common Land, and Impower a
Committee to sell the Same & Execute a Deed or Deeds of the
Same.

And your Petitioners shall Pray &c.

EBENEZER WILLIAMS.

NICHOLAS ^{his} X WILLIAMS.
mark

To the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorches-
ter in General Town Meeting Assembled May 21st 1733.

The Petition of Matthew Pimer of Dorchester aforesaid.
Sheweth, That there is a small Piece of Common Land Commonly
Called the Old Training-field, belonging to the said Town of
Dorchester, containing about an Acre & half, Bounded —

which is of small benefit to the Town as it now lyes, and it
lying near your Petitioner, your Petitioner would be glad to
Purchase the Same.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays, That if the Town would sell
him the said Piece of Common Land, & chose a Committee to
make & Execute a good & Lawfull Deed of the same if they can
agree; he leaving such ways as are Necessary.

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever Pray &c.

MATHEW PIMER.

To the Freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester
Regularly Assembled on the 21st Day of May, anno 1733.

The Petition of Ebenezer Williams of Dorchester aforesaid,
Cooper, humbly

Sheweth,

That there is a Small Piece of Common Land, belonging to the said Town, lying by his House, between your Petitioners Land & the Land of Comfort Foster, on the North, & the Way over Fire-stone Hill on the South which is of little or no benefit to the Town as it now lyes, but if your Petitioner could Purchase the Same, it would be of advantage to your Petitioner & the Town also.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays, That the Town would sell the said Piece of Common Land, & Choose & Impower a Committee to sell the Same, and (in case of agreement) to make & Execute a good & lawfull Deed of Sale of the Same unto your Petitioner.

And your petitioner shall ever Pray &c.

EBENEZER WILLIAMS

To the Freeholders & Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester, in
the County of Suffolk, in Town Meeting Regularly Assembled, on the Fourth Day of March, Anno Domini 1733/4.

The Petition of Thomas Pimer of Dorchester aforesaid, Cooper.
Sheweth,

That your Petitioner is now the Owner of that Piece of Land the Town lately Sold to Mr Samuel Royal by Moseleys Pond (so called,) And that there is a narrow vacancy between your Petitioners Land, & the Land of Mr John Capen Jun^r, that has been heretofore when your Petitioners Land lay Common used as a Way, but as your Petitioner Conceives is not Convenient for a Way being the side of a hill, nor is it of General use & benefit to the Town or the Neighbourhood Adjacent, there being another good way over Fire-stone hill (so called) but a few Rods Distance therefrom; and that it would save your Petitioner much

fence, if the Town would sell him said Vacancy, or allow him to stop up said Way by Joyning his Fence to said Capens Land..

He therefore Prays the Town to sell him said Strip of Land now used for a way as aforesaid; and either Grant it him by a Publick Vote, for a valluable Consideration, or choose & Impower a Committee to make a Legal Conveyance thereof to him, as the Town shall Judge meet

And your Petitioner shall ever Pray &c.

THO^S PIMER.

DORCHESTER March 4th 1733.

Pursuant to the several Votes & Instructions of this Town, at a Town Meeting on the 5th Day of March last & on the 21st Day of May last, Impowering & Directing us the Subscribers to sell Several Small Pieces of Common Land, we have Transacted therein as follows, Viz.

We have Sold to Matthew Pimer the Remaining Common of the Old Training field, Containing about $1\frac{1}{4}$ Acres, Reserving Necessary Ways; for the Sum of Thirty Eight pounds.

And we have Sold to Ebenezer Williams about 14 rods by the Place where the Old Meeting-house stood for 35/.

And to Ebenezer Mawdsley Jun^r who appeared for Nicholas Williams, about 14 Rods in the place last mentioned for 35 shillings.

And to Henry Payson Pools Pond (so called) with the Common Land Joyning to it, Containing about — for the Sum of 10 pounds.

And to Samuel Royall about $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres, being the 2 [two] pieces he Petitioned to buy (for 120 p.).

All which Severall Pieces of Land we have given Deeds of in the Towns Name & have taken Bonds of them to whom we sold the Same, or Notes under hand made to the Town Treasurer, for the Money, and have Delivered them to the Town Treasurer.

THO^S TILESTON.

THO^S WISWELL.

To the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester, in general Town Meeting Assembled, on the Third Day of March of March Anno Domini 1739

The Petition of Robert Oliver of Dorehester aforesaid, Gentleman. Sheweth, That your Petitioner is now the Owner of the House & Land that was heretofore the Dwelling place of Mr William Royall Deceased: That there is a notch or offset in the fence facing to the Road or Highway leading to Boston, near where the said Mr Royals Shop stood: That it will be an advantage to your Petitioner to set his Fence Straight, and would nowise Straighten or discommode the Road but rather beautifie the same; That the Land taken in by Straightening the fence as aforesaid will be but very little; about four or five Rods; which your Petitioner (for the Reason above mentioned) is desirous to Purchase of the Town.

Your Petitioner therefore Prays the Town to sell him said small Strip of Land; And that they would Choose and Impower a Committee to sell the same unto him (for such Reasonable Pricce as shall be agreed upon) and to pass a good Deed of Conveyance accordingly. Or otherwise that the Town will confirm the same to him by a Vote or Grant for such Reasonable Sum as they shall Judge meet. And your Petitioner as in Duty Bound shall ever pray &c.

ROBERT OLIVER.

DORCHESTER April 10, 1741.

We the Subscribers being a committee appointed by the Town of Dorehester, at a Meeting of the said Town on the 17th Day of Nov^r last past; To Exchange a Small Piece of the Towns Common Land by Mr Robert Olivers House he purchased of Comfort Foster, for so much of Mr Olivers Land by the Burying place, for the Enlargement thereof: Have this Day according to our Instructions Exchanged with the said Mr Robert Oliver Half an

Acre & Twenty five Rods of the Common Land before the House that was the said Comfort Fosters (which is now taken down & a New one about to be Erected in or near the same place by the said Robert Oliver) Measuring Twenty eight feet from the Southwest corner of the said new House, along by the Way leading to Dorchester-neck; for the same Quantity of his Land Adjoining to the Burying-place; both of which pieces of Land are more fully described in the Deeds of Exchange which we and the said Robert Oliver have Interchangably Passed between us.

BENJ^A BIRD.

THO^S TROTT.

JAMES BLAKE.

Indenture made April 10, 1741 between Benjamin Bird, esq, James Blake and Thomas Trott. yeomen, all of Dorchester, a committee appointed by the town on Nov. 17, 1740, — and Robert Oliver of Dorchester, gentleman, by which the town sold to Oliver, in exchange for his land, “ a piece or parcell of Common Land belonging to the said Town of Dorchester, Containing one Half an Acre and Twenty five Rods, more or less. Bounded as follows, Vizt. Northerly by the Land of the said Robert Oliver, Easterly by Common Land, Southerly partly by the Highway leading over Firestone Hill (so called) and partly by the Remaining Common Land, the said Highway to be left about Two Rods wide, and Westerly by the Road or Highway leading to Dorchester-Neck, where it measures Twenty eight Feet.”

Robert Oliver conveys to the Town of Dorchester for the Enlargement of their Burying Place a piece of Land containing one Half acre and Twenty five Rods, more or less, Bounded as follows, Viz. Westerly by the whole length of the Burying Place, Southerly by the Road or Highway leading to the late Col. Tailors Deceased, and Northerly and Easterly by Bound Stakes against the Remaining Land of the said Robert Oliver, being in breadth from the said Burying Place eastwardly ninety three feet.

To the Freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester, within the County of Suffolk, in General Town Meeting Assembled on the 15th Day of May Anno Domini 1749

The Petition of Zebediah Williams of Dorehester aforesaid Yeoman humbly Sheweth,

That Whereas there is a small Piece of Land near his Mothers, adjoining to a piece of Land, lately granted to Col. Robert Oliver, which he judges might be fenced in without Prejudice to the Way, your Petitioner therefore prays, that the Town would sell him said piece of Land, for the conveniency of diging a Well. And that they would choose & Impower a Committee to sell said piece of Land unto your Petitioner, & grant him a good & lawfull Deed of the same.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray &c

ZEBEDIAH WILLIAMS



